

Both sides stand firm as red tape keeps Westerners trapped in Baghdad

UN starts 'long haul to peace' with Iraq talks

By RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN AND MICHAEL KNIFE IN LONDON

THE United Nations began talking to Iraq yesterday for the first time since the invasion of Kuwait a month ago, while red tape continued to hamper efforts to fly Western women and children home.

Nineteen Italians reached Ruweisat in Jordan and they will be flown home today by a special plane sent by the Italian president, Francesco Cossiga. But others hoping to leave were still waiting for exit visas and flight clearances.

In Amman, the UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, and the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, held two sessions of talks at the start of what they described as "the long haul to peace". After the first session, Señor Pérez de Cuellar told reporters: "We discussed all aspects of the present situation. We are convinced these meetings are crucial and important."

Both sides have emphasised that they are not in Amman to negotiate. Señor Pérez de Cuellar insisted: "I have no secret peace plan." UN sources said the secretary-general had reminded Mr Aziz of the terms of the security council resolutions condemning Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Mr Aziz explained Iraq's long-standing grievances with Kuwait over oil and Baghdad's historical claims to the territory it has annexed.

Mr Aziz said he was optimistic for the future of the Arab nation and that it would achieve its goals "in spite of the world conspiracy and challenges awaiting it. Our battle is historic and we shall wage it with manliness and honour."

While the two men were talking at the Jordanian royal palace, King Hussein was at Downing Street on the latest leg of his mediation tour, and the Arab League met in Cairo where it drew up a five-point blueprint for peace. The league demanded that Iraq should withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and pay war damages, but King Hussein shares President Saddam Hussein's view that a withdrawal should be linked to moves to resolve the Arab-

Israeli dispute. That stance provoked clashes at his meeting with Margaret Thatcher yesterday, and officials said the two were as far apart as ever after two hours of discussions. The king, however, said that he felt they had a better understanding of each other's positions.

Whitehall sources said the two leaders agreed on the need for an Iraqi withdrawal, for sanctions to be rigorously applied and for renewed efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. Mrs Thatcher said the world was facing aggression by a dictator and insisted by Italy yesterday was uncharitable and unjustified — with a call for those yet to send forces to the Gulf to do so or back the military effort with money.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office officials continued to work towards the safety of British women and children. An Iraqi Airways flight arranged by the Iraqi authorities was due to bring 139 hostages from Baghdad to London, but Iraq had supplied no information on the aircraft's intended departure time. The Foreign Office has been given the names of the people scheduled to join the flight and told relatives.

Naji al-Hadithi, Baghdad's information director, said 237 Westerners would be flown to London and Paris on Iraqi Airways aircraft, which would bring home Iraqis who wanted to leave the two capitals. Mr Hadithi said that no Western women and children were left at military or economic sites that could have been targets for air attack, but he said foreign men were still being held at potential targets all over the country.

"Every place, every town that has a vital installation will host our guests," he said. Kurdish rebels reported yesterday that four groups, mainly British and American, were being held at three dams, an airbase and an oilfield in northern Iraq.

In London, Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, gave a warning about the possibility of terrorist attacks on civilian targets such as airfields. "We need to be even more vigilant than usual."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, flew to Qatar yesterday on the first leg of his six-nation tour of the Gulf. He will return to London on Wednesday in time to report to Parliament, which is being recalled for a two-day debate on the Gulf on Thursday. Tony Benn, the Labour MP for Chesterfield, plans to force a vote to give MPs an opportunity to oppose the government line on the issue.

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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

Hawks begin to bristle as American nerves start fraying

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN WASHINGTON

AFTER a week dominated by hopes for diplomacy in the Gulf, US officials have begun signalling that Washington still sees little likely alternative to military action as the means of breaking Iraq's grip on Kuwait.

President Bush and his senior advisers, most of them now enjoying the Labour Day holiday weekend, are coming to the view that, despite the unprecedented international consensus on sanctions, time may be on the side of President Saddam Hussein and that the US must choose its action within about eight weeks if diplomacy fails. Congressmen who were briefed by Mr Bush this week were reported in *The Washington Post* yesterday to have left the White House "fairly certain that within the

next two months the United States would loose its mighty war-making powers on Saddam Hussein".

President Saddam is now said to believe he can withstand the embargo for up to a year and has decided to play for time to wear down international and US resolve with a war of nerves. The manipulation of the hostages this week was just one tactic, officials say. A CIA assessment presented to Mr Bush on Thursday estimated that the Iraqi leader could hold off an internal revolt for up to two years. Mr Bush, who has not included President Saddam's removal as a US goal, says that he has no quarrel with the Iraqi people and hopes that they will topple their president. A number of Mr Bush's allies in Congress are calling on him to ensure the departure of President Saddam. Senator Richard Lugar, the senior Republican on the

foreign relations committee and a friend of the president, said: "My own view is that he does have to leave the leadership of the country."

In the Gulf, US commanders are reporting that Iraqi forces have been ordered to avoid at all costs anything that could provoke a US retaliation. Iraqi warplanes are avoiding US aircraft. Iraqi ships are no longer challenging the blockade and Iraqi forces are fortifying the Kuwait coast.

Although the president has promised to allow as much time as it takes for sanctions to bite and for diplomacy to work, many in the administration are convinced that a stalemate cannot be allowed to last beyond Christmas. By that stage the wave of patriotic fever – now shared by many in Congress – will have waned and the economic costs of the huge Desert Shield deployment

will be hitting hard. International resolve will also be crumbling.

President Saddam could take comfort this week from the first signs that Gulf operation is beginning to wear down the nerves of the US public. According to psychiatrists, all the images of tearful separations and endless television reports on hostages have are breeding a sense of uncertainty, anxiety and fear among the US people. Another rising argument was voiced yesterday by the popular *USA Today* newspaper.

"Why should we wreck our economy to protect one of the most anti-democratic, anti-female sheikdoms in the world?" If no diplomatic settlement appears, the crunch for the administration will come in about six weeks, the time when enough US troops and tanks will be in place to enable the United States to take on the Iraqi Army if necessary. Mr Bush

will be forced to ponder over the exceedingly hard options whether to "continue sitting in the sand with the job undone or go on the offensive and get the guy out", as one diplomat put it.

According to reports leaked yesterday, the president's national security advisers and some US allies, including Saudi Arabia and Israel, are telling him that they see a large-scale military action as the best option if diplomacy and sanctions fail to produce results within two or three months. European diplomats yesterday dismissed reports here that Mrs Thatcher was also trying to stiffen Mr Bush's resolve. The prime minister spoke to Mr Bush by telephone yesterday about his drive to persuade the allies to help finance the Gulf operation. There was not a chink of light between the US and British stances, the diplomats said.

Saudi Arabia is reported to have told Richard Cheney, the secretary of defence, that it makes no sense for their country to have paid the considerable political price for installing the huge US expeditionary force on their territory without dismantling the menace of President Saddam.

• Legal case: The administration is constructing a legal case against President Saddam for possible use at a future war crimes trial, according to the US officials quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* (Susan Elicott writes).

US officials have started to compile a list of the Iraqi leader's breaches of international law, past and present. These include using chemical weapons, capturing hostages, kidnapping diplomats, violating embassies and holding people against their will at military installations.

Pérez de Cuellar and Aziz begin their 'long haul to peace'

From RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

JAVIER Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, yesterday sought to gloss over deep differences and begin what both sides described as the long haul to peace.

The talks began at the Jordanian Royal Palace and then moved to the UN offices in Amman. At one point Señor Pérez de Cuellar emerged to describe the meeting as "very useful". Later the talks adjourned for several hours so that Mr Aziz could hold consultations with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

Mr Aziz said that he and Señor Pérez de Cuellar had begun a process of "direct talks" between Baghdad and the Western powers, above all the United States.

As the talks got under way a party of 13 Italian women and six children crossed the land border between Jordan and Iraq at Ruweishid, the first to be released since President Saddam promised that foreign families could leave.

There was no hint of compromise by Iraq over the UN demands for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the release of all the Western

hostages. Mr Aziz said he was "optimistic for the future of the Arab nation," a phrase which could mean that Baghdad was hopeful of a positive outcome. But Arab sources said that he had meant that Baghdad was confident – or wanted the world to believe it was confident – that its aims could be fulfilled. Iraq argues that annexation of Kuwait is in the interests of the "Arab nation", though a majority of the Arab League is ranged against Baghdad's action.

Some diplomats saw Mr Aziz's rhetoric as masking the beginning of an Iraqi climb-down. Mr Aziz said: "The Arab nation will achieve its goals despite the world conspiracy and challenges awaiting it." He added: "Our battle is historic. And we shall wage it with manliness and honour. Victory will belong to the Arab nation, God willing."

But Mr Aziz also emphasised the role of the Secretary-General as mediator, noting that during the eight-year Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, he had acted as a conduit between the belligerents.

Senior Pérez de Cuellar said that his talks with Mr Aziz were the beginning of a pro-

cess, and did not amount to negotiations. "I have no secret peace plan," he declared.

UN sources said Señor Pérez de Cuellar had reminded Mr Aziz of the terms of the five Security Council resolutions condemning Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and imposing sanctions on Baghdad. In reply, Mr Aziz explained Iraq's long-standing grievances with Kuwait over oil and Baghdad's historical claims to the territory.

Mr Aziz conceded that his talks with Señor Pérez de Cuellar had taken place in Amman because he was unable to fly to United Nations headquarters in either New York or Geneva, an admission of the isolation imposed on Baghdad by the sanctions.

Jordanian officials said that the situation of refugees in Jordan was worsening. Crown Prince Hassan, who also met Señor Pérez de Cuellar, said that 76,000 refugees were now assembled at Ruweishid and at two emergency camps. "Children are going to die there," the Crown Prince said.

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'No safeguard' for hostages if allied forces intervene

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRAQ would drop its "moral commitment" to safeguard the lives of American, British, French and other Western hostages held in Iraq if America and its allies sustained their threat of military intervention, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, told the French newspaper *Le Figaro* yesterday in his first interview with a Western paper since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The declaration will do little to reassure British women and children waiting with increasing desperation as their plans for departure from Baghdad are delayed.

Asked whether his country categorically rejected the use of terrorism, Mr Aziz said it was the attitude of the West. "If the West decides war, then our obligations (towards our former renunci-

ation of terrorism) no longer stand," he said. The Iraqi government's break with Abu Nidal in 1983 was heralded as an attempt by Saddam Hussein to turn his back on Arab terrorist groups.

Mr Aziz, in an apparent attempt to avoid jeopardising his talks with the UN Secretary-General in Amman yesterday, refused to be drawn into saying that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait would not be negotiable.

The foreign minister, aged 53, a highly experienced diplomat and a long-standing ally of President Saddam sought to portray every Iraqi move since the "rightful" invasion of Kuwait as defensive against the Western crusade.

America, he said, had mustered widespread UN support only because its allies needed American money or feared its power. This was all the worse now that the Soviet Union was no longer an effective counterbalance to the US, he said.

With particularly quixotic logic, he likened Iraq's hostage-taking to a man who shields himself behind the will of another who is about to attack him.

WASHINGTON

Spies in the sky play part in battle of wills

From SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

WITH the stalemate in the Middle East becoming a battle of wills, the United States is relying heavily on its intelligence gathering to keep an edge over Iraq. President Saddam Hussein in his palace may be getting most of his information about the US build-up from the round-the-clock Cable Network News but America, with the help of a fleet of spy satellites, can see the tracks left by every tank he has shifted across the desert sand.

American reconnaissance experts hope their technical superiority in intelligence gathering will compensate for the lack of human spies working on the ground. Reports here say America has found itself short of traditional spies in Iraq after gradually shifting its attention away from former communist adversaries.

The Bush administration's policy-



King Hussein and Mrs Thatcher talking at Downing Street yesterday

LONDON

Thatcher and Husain fail to resolve sharp differences

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher and King Husain of Jordan failed to reduce their sharp differences over how to resolve the Gulf crisis in their talks at Downing Street yesterday. They specifically clashed over what the prime minister regards as the king's willingness to grant Iraq concessions to Iraq in return for getting out of Kuwait.

King Husain said after the talks that he believed he and Mrs Thatcher had a better understanding of each other's position. Whitehall sources, however, said they remained "quite far apart" in their assessment of the causes of the dispute and ways to resolve it.

The Jordanian monarch sees the crisis in a broader perspective than the British government and is seeking to defuse the explosive situation in the Gulf by promoting a

dialogue between the international community and President Saddam Hussein. He shares President Saddam's view that a withdrawal should be linked to moves to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

In contrast, Mrs Thatcher believes it important to concentrate on the fundamental issue, the invasion of Kuwait and the need for an Iraqi withdrawal. She regards the Iraqi leader as a tyrant and dismisses the prospect of negotiating with him. Not surprisingly therefore, the talks were described by government sources as "very frank and plainly spoken".

The two leaders know and respect each other and so were not inhibited by the need to be circumspect.

Afterwards King Husain said he believed his relationship with Mrs Thatcher was

"as good as it had ever been".

He said Jordan had made it clear it abided by UN sanctions but, in an implicit reference to Israel's occupation of the West Bank, he said Jordan had called over many years for such measures to be applied in other areas as well.

To resolve the confrontation the king is believed to favour an initiative that would station Arab instead of Western forces in the Gulf area. But he said as he left Downing Street that he was not bearing a peace plan.

Whitehall sources said the two leaders agreed on the need for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the need for United Nations sanctions to be rigorously applied and the need for renewed efforts to try to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

defence official told *The Washington Post* that the administration had a report on the resistance movement that was classified at a level reserved for covert operations. The CIA has refused to comment on a mass of reports soon after the Iraqi invasion that Mr Bush had authorised it to put together plans aimed at removing President Saddam from power.

Although Iraq's intelligence systems are no match for those of the United States, Washington still faces the problem of President Saddam's unpredictability until it has completed its troop deployment – expected to take another seven weeks. US spy satellites are sensitive enough to monitor battlefield communications and look through camouflage to underground tunnels night and day. The most powerful of its craft that orbit hundreds of miles above the earth can reportedly read the number-plate on a car.

MOSCOW
Wide rifts in policy on conflictFrom MARY DEREVSKY
IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW's united front on policy towards the Gulf, carefully cultivated since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, has started to fall apart. Divisions which were discernible only in hints and signals and a reluctance by Moscow to subscribe to any United Nations Security Council resolution approving the use of force, have started to emerge not as hairline fractures but as wide rifts in attitude.

However, he said foreign men still held in Iraq were free to do so – unlike British citizens in Iraq. There are estimated to be between 5,000 and 6,000 Iraqi nationals living in Britain.

Mr al-Hadithi said the foreign women and children include 123 Britons, 66 Japanese, 19 French, 14 Americans, two Australians and four of unspecified nationalities.

He also said an unspecified number of women and children from other countries that he did not name were "in principle" free to leave immediately but their governments had to make arrangements for their departure.

However, he said foreign men still held in Iraq were being kept as potential military targets. Every place, every town that has a vital installation will host our guests," he said. "We're relocating the foreign men all over the country at airports, air bases, industrial plants, communications centres, power centres and oil refineries – wherever Iraq considers it has a vital installation, one exposed to the American threat."

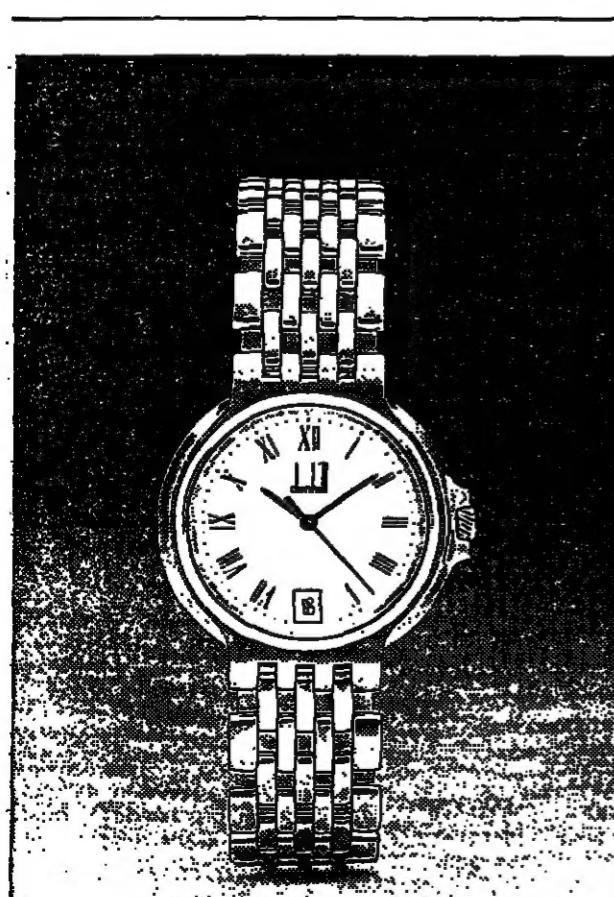
Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, said last night that the government had been in constant touch with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic since the beginning of the conflict, and was ready to move "as soon as we have the necessary assurances from the Iraqi authorities". He also gave a warning about the

presence of more than 6,000 Soviet specialists in Iraq, only 193 of them officially classified as military experts. He had been pushed into the background by the urgency of evacuating Soviet citizens from Kuwait and women and children from Iraq. With that evacuation well under way, the role of the specialists has become more conspicuous.

The approach adopted by a defence ministry spokesman ten days ago and adhered to by most officials and commentators since is that the presence of all the specialists in no way contravened the security council resolution on sanctions because they were not engaged in commercial activity. The line was that they would be withdrawn at the end of their contracts.

Edward Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, conceded last Sunday, however, that while their presence might be legitimate, it had "a moral aspect" and might be reconsidered.

On Thursday the Soviet parliament's foreign affairs committee called for the presence of specialists in Iraq to be reviewed as soon as the evacuation of women and children is complete. The previous day a declaration issued by the officially sponsored Peace Committee and other similar organisations had called for the immediate withdrawal of all specialists. Both statements appeared to be volleys in a debate proceeding behind the scenes.



INDIVIDUALITY. A CLASSIC TIMEPIECE THAT REPRESENTS THE PINNACLE OF THE WATCHMAKERS ART. THE STEEL AND YELLOW METAL ELITE PART OF A COMPLETE RANGE OF WATCHES FROM ALFRED DUNHILL

dunhill

VISIT ALFRED DUNHILL IN LONDON AT DUKE STREET ST JAMES'S, THE BURLINGTON ARCADE & SLOANE STREET AND AT ALFRED DUNHILL IN HARRODS AND SWIFTRIDES. WATCHES ALSO AVAILABLE AT WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND LTD, THE GOLDSMITHS GROUP, HARRODS WATCH DEPARTMENT AND LEADING JEWELLERS

It's in the

Smuggling unlikely to help Iraq beat siege

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

WESTERN analysts say no amount of smuggling can help Iraq survive the economic siege, despite the confidence of some of its allies.

Smuggling would put only a tiny dent in the blockade but could never provide enough to feed Iraq's fast-growing population of 17 million, they believe. Iraq imports nearly 70 per cent of its food, and rationing begins today.

With its belt-tightening programme, which encourages housewives to cut their family's food consumption by half, it is estimated that Iraq may have enough food to last up to six months.

But the psychological impact of being under siege will increase domestic pressure on

DHARAN

America's cop on the desert beat

From NICHOLAS REEDSTON
IN DHARAN

IF AMERICA is the world's policeman then General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the larger than life commander in chief of US forces in Saudi Arabia, is Washington's cop on the beat.

An imposing character with an infectious chuckle, the West Point graduate and former football player can turn quickly from a jovial uncle figure to the man everyone looks to for justice.

"What you have got here is a situation where not only is there smuggling but a rape has occurred," said General Schwarzkopf in an outburst against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"Stormin' Norman", as he is called by his men, arrived in Saudi Arabia five days ago to take personal charge of the biggest airlift of US forces since the Vietnam war. After his first inspection of some of the estimated 60,000 US personnel now deployed in the north-east of the country, he emphasised the defensive role of Operation Desert Shield and insisted that his mission was to protect Saudi Arabia and not to invade Iraq or retake occupied Kuwait.

But he left in no doubt his personal animosity towards his counterparts and the numerically superior Iraqi forces lined up against him.

"This is H. Norman Schwarzkopf speaking. I think they are a bunch of thugs," he said, and went on to consider his enemy's morale. "I hope it is lousy. I hope it is really terrible. I hope they are hungry, thirsty and out of ammunition and I hope they feel very badly about what they did. Because they should."

Although describing the Iraqi forces' disposition as defensive, he said that it could quickly become offensive and admitted that the Pentagon had been taken completely by surprise when President Saddam Hussein ordered his troops to invade Kuwait.

"We knew exactly what the Iraqis were doing, we knew exactly what their dispositions were, and I think the world misjudged their intention. It certainly came as a surprise to me."

The success or failure of the US operation in Saudi Arabia will rest largely on General Schwarzkopf's ability in the field. He emphasised that the US force currently in place and growing larger every day was strong enough to meet any Iraqi threat.

HIGH-TECH WEAPONS

Sky Flash never yet fired in anger

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S 12 air-defence Tornado F3s in Dhahran are all armed with Sky Flash medium-range and Sidewinder short-range air-to-air missiles. Sky Flash is the first missile that would be fired by a British Tornado pilot in an aerial battle with Iraqi fighters.

Sky Flash, a British-modified version of the American Sparrow missile, has a range of 25 miles and weighs 430lb. Unlike the Sidewinder, which has a range of five miles, it has never been fired in anger.

The missile is a semi-active, radar-homing device which means that the pilot must use the Tornado's radar to illuminate the target before



launching an attack. Sky Flash chases the reflected illumination from the target but it is up to the pilot to ensure that the missile stays on course by keeping the radar locked on to the approaching aircraft. The missile takes 40 to 60

seconds to cover its full range.

Sky Flash will eventually be replaced by a fully active system in which the radar transmission will come from the missile, not the aircraft, making it more accurate. In any immediate conflict,

however, the pilot would have to play a larger role.

The success of the missile will depend on the engagement geometry, how good the pilot is, what electronic counter-measures are deployed by the enemy aircraft and how good the approaching fighter is at manoeuvring out of the way. Duncan Lennox, editor of Jane's Air-Launched Weapons, said yesterday.

"As the opposing aircraft fly towards each other, each will launch a medium-range, semi-active radar missile first and then a short-range missile when they get closer," he added. "In the end it will depend on the skill of the pilot. It's quite complicated to work out the best moment to launch the missiles. The cool head gets it right."



Desert sunrise: US 82nd Airborne Division troops on guard in Saudi Arabia yesterday after a night digging trenches and filling sandbags

Saddam shows two faces to the world

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

LIKE the classic secret police interrogator, President Saddam Hussein this week showed two different faces to those ranged against him.

By decreeing the release of all foreign women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait, he sought to portray himself as a conciliator. At the same time, the decimation of Kuwait as Iraq's nineteenth province and the distribution of maps to flaunt it have shown him in a more familiar, uncompromising light.

The hard-pressed corps of diplomats in Baghdad, many of whom have been refused permission to leave, are used to the unpredictability of their host. They detect in his strategy a plan to draw out the confrontation into a long haul in.

The game plan from the bunker would be to try to recruit the international community to act as a restraint on the United States, while insisting that anything involving the future of Kuwait is a purely Arab matter, a senior envoy explained.

Western officials emphasise that to understand President Saddam's thinking on the Kuwait question it is essential to appreciate his long history as a member of the Arab Baath party, which has an almost mystical devotion to the concept of Arab unity and the rejection of outside interference in the Arab world.

Behind the familiar arguments about America's alleged unwillingness to sacrifice sufficient blood in support of what one official dismissed as the "harem emirs" of Kuwait, and the durability of the Koran-inspired Iraqi soldier, more subtle theories are now being promulgated. "I believe

that the US is preparing to face the United Europe of 1992 by trying to secure a firm lever on Middle East oil," said Naji Al-Hadithi, newly appointed director-general of foreign information and editor of the *Baghdad Observer*.

Although President Saddam's propaganda for Arab consumption is designed to stir up pro-Islamic and anti-American feeling among the Arab masses, there is a tendency among lesser officials to tone down the invertebrate in the hope that the much-venerated "Arab solution" (a vague concept) can emerge as a genic might emerge from a bottle.

There is a genuine but dangerously excitable pride in Baghdad that a country of 17 million is standing up to what one official described as "those damned Yankees and their evil empire".

Iraqis choose to ignore the West's enormous air and fire-power, preferring to speculate on how well their own troops, bent on heroic martyrdom, will fare in the "burning desert" (a favourite phrase) against pale-skinned, lily-livered Americans.

Christopher Walker has spent this week reporting from Baghdad

Kurds pinpoint hostage sites

THE wall of secrecy surrounding Western hostages in Iraq cracked yesterday when Kurdish rebels said four groups, mainly British and American, were being held at three dams, an airbase and an oilfield in northern Iraq. (Reuters reports).

The first report pinpointing the location of hostages at possible war targets said hostages, including women and children, had been moved on August 24 to the Eski Mosul, Dukhan and Darbandikan dams and to a military airbase at Kirkuk.

A Kurdistan Democratic Party spokesman in London said that the intelligence report from Kurdish agents was received last Monday.

He did not know whether the women and children were still at the dams, airbase and oilfield or had been moved back to Baghdad in view of President Saddam Hussein's decision to release them. The total number of hostages involved was also not known.

The hostage groups were moved to these locations:

The Eski Mosul dam on the Tigris; the Dukhan dam on the Lesser Zab river; the Darbandikan dam, also on the Lesser Zab, which like the Dukhan supplies Baghdad and Kirkuk with power; Kirkuk, where they are located at an airbase and an oil installation.

The first group was housed in the power station buildings. It was not known where the others were being accommodated. All are being held as a deterrent against air attack.

The spokesman said oil production at Iraq's oilfields around Kirkuk and Mosul had virtually ceased, with wells pumping only enough for Iraq's domestic needs.

The Dukhan and Darbandikan dams were frequently attacked by Iranian planes during the 1980-88 Gulf war.



Even Pickfords won't be able to move them.

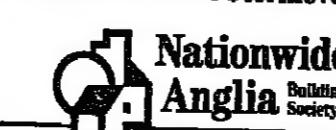
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Call to ban Guinness 4 from holding directorships

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour Party urged the government yesterday to ask the courts to disqualify those convicted in the Guinness trial from holding company directorships. However, Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, will not for the moment take any action.

The trade department has its own investigators preparing a report on the Guinness affair and there are other legal cases pending.

Mr Lilley will not take a decision on applying to the High Court for the disqualification of Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, Gerald Ronson, the head of Heron International, Anthony Farnes, the stockbroker, or Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, until all the cases have been completed and until he has studied the department inspectors' report.

The report will go into wider aspects of the Guinness affair than those touched on in the court case and officials say that ministers do not lightly take the decision to apply for disqualification of directors.

Gordon Brown, the Opposition's chief trade spokesman, said: "Following their convictions for crimes including theft, fraud, deception and false accounting, and for what the judge described as commercial corruption at the highest level, it is not acceptable that they should be permitted to maintain directorships of substantial firms with responsibilities to shareholders, employees and customers."

"The public will not understand why people should be permitted to run their businesses from within the walls of a prison. After they have been tried and convicted, business cannot go on as usual without making a mockery of justice."

Mr Brown said: "Under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, the secretary of state has wide powers to seek a disqualification where he has reason to believe that this is in the public interest. Now is the time to use these powers."

"Now is the time for Peter Lilley to show that he has more mettle than his predecessor, who was not prepared to use these powers in the Harrods and other cases. Now is the time to use those powers and for the government to

send the same message as Mr Justice Henry's ruling that corruption and fraud cannot be tolerated, however well-connected the perpetrator," Mr Brown said.

Earlier this week Mr Lilley applied to the High Court, under the 1986 Company Directors Disqualification Act for Peter Cameron-Webb, Peter Dixon and John Waller, three former members of the Lloyd's of London insurance market, to be disqualified from ever again being company directors.

The application followed the publication of reports by his department into Minet Holdings and the Alexander Howden Group after an insurance scandal in which some Howden directors were accused of siphoning off millions of pounds.

The inspectors' reports on the Alexander Howden Group had been with the department since 1985. The final report on Minet Holdings was submitted in January.



Mr Ward outside his home in Annapolis yesterday. He is fighting attempts to extradite him to Britain, where he would face charges in connection with the Guinness affair. Legal wrangles seem likely to delay proceedings

Ward digs in for long extradition fight

From SUSAN ELICKOTT IN WASHINGTON

THOMAS Ward, the Washington lawyer paid £5.2 million for eight weeks' work during the Guinness battle to take over Distillers, is preparing for a long fight against the British authorities' attempts to extradite him from the US.

The high-flying lifestyle he enjoyed while on the Guinness board may be gone, as is the chocolate brown Rolls-Royce and the flat at one of Washington's ritziest addresses. But he still lives in a roomy house on the bay overlooking Annapolis, a small port about half an hour's drive from Washington, and the only curb on his freedom is an order to report daily to the District of Columbia's pre-trial services agency.

If brought back to Britain, Mr Ward would face three charges. Two, under the UK Theft Act, are centred on his alleged theft and false invoicing of the £5.2 million from Guinness. The maximum jail term that could be imposed would be ten years.

In support of British efforts

to extradite Mr Ward, the US Attorney's office has submitted 13 volumes of evidence to a US magistrate, including documents that show Mr Ward spent 78 days in London conferring with Guinness's takeover team during 1986.

FBI agents arrested Mr Ward last October, 18 months after an extradition warrant was issued by Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, following a High Court ruling supported by the House of Lords, that the £5.2 million payment was illegal.

Last week Mr Ward took his case to the Baltimore District Court of Maryland. District Judge Norman Ramsey arrived at the same conclusion as the Lords. He allowed 30 days for Mr Ward to lodge an appeal.

Mr Ward's lawyers, Howard Gutman and David Aufhauser, of the renowned Washington law firm of Williams & Connolly, have challenged the constitutionality of the extradition order, citing a US Supreme Court ruling last

year that limited the power of magistrates. The two sides have also yet to agree on Mr Ward's access to British prosecution papers and what type of evidence they should hand to the US court. Mr Aufhauser said that the legal wranglings could delay extradition proceedings for a couple of years.

Yesterday, Mr Ward was at the offices of Ward Lazarus and Graw, the law firm, in central Washington but he was not receiving telephone calls from the press. "Mr Ward never deals with the press," his secretary said. "Please refer to his lawyers."

Little was known about the firm in a city riddled with lawyers until the British authorities linked Mr Ward to the Guinness affair. The company asked Mr Ward to resign from his board after the trade and industry department launched its enquiry into the shares ramp. Mr Ward found himself in an unusual position for an American, since US lawyers generally steer away

from sitting on the boards of large foreign firms in case their practice becomes liable in litigation.

Mr Ward, described by those who know him as a family man with a fondness for fine cars and sailing, reluctantly found himself in the limelight. As the *de facto* legal adviser for the takeover of Distillers, he was probably closer to Saunders than anyone else publicly involved in the affair. The pair had reputations as ambitious, determined and charismatic men.

Mr Ward's friendship with Saunders dates back to the 1970s when Saunders was a senior executive with Nestlé, the food manufacturer and Mr Ward was an adviser to the firm. In the Guinness affair, he is credited with fending off a possible investigation into the Distillers takeover by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and persuading the members of Distillers' board to pay back Distillers' fees if the deal unravelled.

In the English courts he

claimed that these actions entitled him to the £5.2 million which is being contested. His lawyers have claimed the money is largely spent, with £2.9 million going to his US federal and Maryland state tax men.

The rest of Washington seems largely to have ignored the legal proceedings around the little-known firm of Ward Lazarus & Graw and the trademark lawyer, who is one of its named partners.

Legal experts who follow the relatively obscure field of patent law know Mr Ward's strengths at negotiating and bargaining skills. According to a former colleague, Saunders "helped Tom in the transition" from the low-profile world of his specialty to the fast-paced of big international finance.

If the British authorities succeed in securing his extradition, Mr Ward, who has denied any wrongdoing, would defend his position in the third trial arising from the Guinness scandal.

By OUR AIR CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN aged 75 was killed yesterday when the helicopter he was piloting crashed into a wheatfield in Essex.

Robert MacDonald-Hall, a Second World War fighter pilot who later fitted out Concorde, was believed to be the oldest helicopter pilot in the country. He died when his Hughes 500C turned over soon after taking off from his home at Rayne, Essex, to fly to Battersea, south London.

Mr MacDonald-Hall was a naval commander with the Fleet Air Arm during the war and had been flying for more than 50 years. He was the founder and president of Aircraft Interior Manufacturers, a Southampton-based company with 1,000 employees across the country, and took an active part in running the firm.

He regularly flew the 14-year-old company helicopter to and from work and on business trips. He was on his way to the firm's annual general meeting when he died.

His young son, Casper, aged 39, said: "He was a very exceptional man and a brilliant pilot. He had been flying for most of his life and was more at home in the air than behind the wheel of a car."

Villagers in Felsted believed

Mr MacDonald-Hall was trying to avoid houses near by when he crashed.

Two Scotland Yard detectives investigating the murder of Julie Ward in Kenya two years ago are to return to East Africa next week (Quentin Cowdrey writes).

Det Superintendant Graham Scarle and Det Inspector David Skipperton submitted a report to the Kenyan authorities in April. Since then they have been to Australia where they interviewed Dr Glen Burns, a marine biologist, who was one of the last people to see 28-year-old Miss Ward alive. She went missing after leaving the Sand River camp on the Masai Mara reserve to drive to Nairobi, 200 miles away.

Last year the Kenyan police belatedly launched a murder investigation into Miss Ward's death after a coroner dismissed their claims that she had been killed by wild animals.

Prince checks in

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess, last night checked in as a National Health Service patient at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, behind a security screen including police dogs.

Surgeons will today operate on his right arm, broken in a polo accident, placing bone fragments from his hip around a fracture to aid healing. The Prince will be in hospital for between seven and 11 days.

Drugs sentence

Ronald Harrison, aged 51, of Hoylake, Merseyside, was jailed for ten years yesterday for smuggling 147 kilos of cannabis from Rotterdam via Hull docks hidden in jars of pickled gherkins. Harrison said he had known nothing about the drugs and had planned to sell the gherkins.

Depot expands

Earl and Countess Spencer

yesterday officially opened a £4-million extension to the TNT Express inland clearance depot at Northampton. The expansion of Britain's third largest port will create 100 jobs and is part of nationwide expansion plans by the company costing £10 million.

Ferry to halt

The Belfast-Liverpool ferry service is to end in October with the loss of 200 jobs, it was announced yesterday. Belfast Ferries took over the Liverpool route from P&O eight years ago.

Scheme rejected

Chris Parton, the environment secretary, has rejected a controversial scheme for a

complex of shops and flats on the old bus station in the centre of Ambleside, Cumbria, - it was announced yesterday.

Despite the withdrawal of some aircraft which had been expected, there will still be flying displays every afternoon by aircraft that will include the Russian MiG-29 and

the increase puts BP squarely in the middle of the pock between Shell, which restricted its price rise to 4.5p a gallon, and Esso and Texaco, which boosted the price by 8.2p.

BP said: "We have been trying to limit the damage as much as possible. All week we have been waiting to see how the market settled and today we were able to limit the rise to 6.4p." Spot prices on the

Aircraft needed in Gulf withdrawn from air show

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE military build-up in the Gulf has hit the Farnborough Air Show, which opens tomorrow, with the withdrawal of some of the United States' most powerful fighters. It had been hoped that the carrier-based F-14 Tomcat, the F-15 Eagle and even the F-117A stealth fighter would be taking part in the display, but all are now on active duty.

The Russians have also withdrawn their new twin-turbo-prop, the Ilyushin Il-114, which was expected to have made a big impact in the West, where demand for regional aircraft is growing rapidly.

No large commercial jets from the three main manufacturers - Airbus Industrie, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas - will be on display, both because the makers have bulging order books without having to display their jets and because there are no completely new models to unveil. Even the McDonnell Douglas MD-11, a new three-engined jet now undergoing extensive flight tests, which is fighting for a big order from British Airways, will not be there because it is to be there would delay delivery to airlines desperate for aircraft to meet the ever-increasing number of air passengers.

The crisis in the Gulf is expected to change dramatically the focus of attention at Farnborough. Until the beginning of August it had been expected that civilian aircraft, particularly smaller regional and "commuter" jets and turbo-props, would create the main interest, especially for the 50,000 or so trade visitors expected over the first four days. Now, however, the military suppliers have come back to the forefront, and diplomats from small countries who have seen what can happen without a firm defence are expected to concentrate on the wide range of anti-aircraft missiles, radars and electronic defence equipment on display.

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the market settled and today

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to 6.4p." Spot prices on the

market had fallen by 12p a gallon in recent days but the increase was needed to make up for previous steady rises in the open market price, the company said.

The move comes after increases by Shell, Texaco and Esso which provoked strong criticism from politicians and motoring organisations. Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, accused the companies of "shameless exploitation" of the Gulf crisis.

The organisation has written to Sir Leon Brittan, the EC commissioner, asking him to investigate the Rotterdam oil market. BP rejected claims that the oil companies were profiteering from the emergency in the Gulf.

"Far from profiteering, we

are actually losing on our

retail side. At the worst point

last week we were losing about 20p on each gallon sold," the company said.

BP yesterday joined other oil

companies by raising its petrol

prices by 6.4p a gallon.

Esso and Texaco increased

their prices by 8.2p a gallon.

Shell increased its prices by

8.2p a gallon.

BP's 6.4p increase is 12p a

gallon above the current

level.

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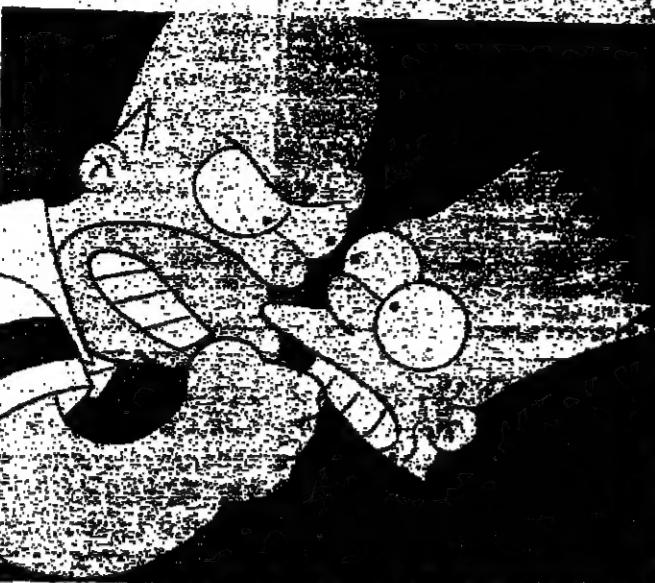
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Global warming 'could introduce more diseases'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HUMANS and animals could be exposed to more diseases because of climate changes brought about by global warming, veterinary surgeons were told yesterday. Some would be new to Britain.

Microbial, parasitic, tick-borne and fungus-related diseases could increase in frequency and virulence in warmer and more humid conditions, Ian Aitken, director of the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh, told the annual congress of the British Veterinary Association.

The growth of novel fungi could increase the incidence of farmer's lung, an asthma-like condition, he predicted. Horses and cows could also suffer from the ailment. Diseases that might spread to Britain from continental Europe included blue-tongue, a disease that afflicts sheep, and African horse sickness. Midges capable of carrying the causative viruses "are already present here and a rise in temperature could facilitate the establishment and persistence of those agents were they to enter this country".

There were about 20 zoonotic infections (those which

can be transmitted from animals to man) that occurred in Britain. "Any change in their prevalence, severity or distribution is likely to lead to comparable changes in human infection", he said.

A rising rat population could increase the risks of waterborne infection by salmonella and listeria, and improved grass growth could push up the number of cattle being grazed. That in turn could increase the danger of contamination of water supplies by cryptosporidium, a parasitic organism excreted in the dung of cattle.

One of the more unexpected results of global warming could be increased dental decay if sheep eat lusher grass. Teeth problems could lead to premature culling of breeding ewes. Increased production of silage (fermented grass) for winter feed could cause a greater incidence of listeria in sheep.

Delegates also heard a call for more research into ways to make cattle pass less wind. The average cow, they were told, releases up to 400 litres a day of methane, one of the gases responsible for the

"greenhouse effect" that is thought to cause global warming. Britain alone had more than 12 million cattle releasing nearly five billion litres of methane a day into the atmosphere, Professor James Armour, dean of the veterinary medicine faculty at Glasgow University, told the congress. "If biotechnology can be used to create leaner beef and cows with more milk, why not cows which produce less methane?" he said.

• Country landowners, yesterday called for a change in water conservation laws which allow sprinklers to water golf courses while farmers are banned from irrigating crops.

Although the National Rivers Authority has powers to stop farmers pumping water from rivers, the water companies are powerless to stop commercial sprinklers without declaring a full-scale drought emergency.

The environment department said that it had no plans to modify the law. The newly privatised water companies must be given time to get to grips with their responsibilities, a spokeswoman said.

THE Royal Mint is striking a medal to celebrate the Battle of Waterloo, 175 years late.

The medals are to be offered in a limited edition in gold, silver and bronze through the mint's coin club.

The Italian engraver Benedito Pistrucci was commissioned in 1816 but a dispute with the mint delayed the work. Thirty years after Pistrucci began the engraving the dies were delivered. By that time, however, most of the intended recipients were dead.

Pistrucci's designs were acclaimed but the mint decided that the dies, at over five inches in diameter, were too large and intricate to be safely hardened for striking, so they were never used.

The medal on offer has been reproduced indirectly from the original dies by craftsmen working with impressions of Pistrucci's masterpieces. On one side it shows the Prince Regent (later George IV), Francis I of Austria, Alexander I of Russia and Frederick William III of Prussia in profile. On the reverse are Wellington and Blücher in classical manner.

The mint is offering 175 gold medals at £895, 2,500 silver at £75 and 5,000 bronze at £37.50. The medal, 65mm in diameter, is said to be large enough for the finest details to be reproduced clearly.



Marcel Caujani, an engraver at the Royal Mint, working on the medal to celebrate the Battle of Waterloo (top), and the two faces of Pistrucci's medal, actual size.

Police officers sue for compensation

SIX South Yorkshire police officers threatened with disciplinary measures after the miners' strike say they have further evidence of misconduct.

Det Supt John Anderson, his assistant constable for South Yorkshire, responsible for mine monitoring, said yesterday the report by West Midlands police on the disaster at the Shipton Colliery ground on April 15 last year had not yet reached the disciplinary authority.

The report contains 9,566 questionnaires, 5,341 statements, 2,392 sets of documents, 71 hours of video recordings and the transcripts of 174 people who gave evidence at Lord Justice Taylor's enquiry.

The report, which persuaded the Director of Public Prosecutions that no criminal charges should be brought against the police force, individual police officers, or against the football club and its advisers, will be "closely scrutinised" by the disciplinary authority.

Mr Anderson said: a decision would then be made about whether to take action against any officers. Any recommendation would then be submitted to the Police Complaints Authority.

'Tired' children better in school

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

YOUNG children whose symptoms of fatigue and loss of appetite lead parents to suspect they are suffering from myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) are probably just adopting a strategy to miss school, a paediatrician said yesterday.

Dr Leonard Taiz, of the Children's Hospital in Sheffield, said: "In 30 years of clinical practice I have never seen such symptoms lead to organic disease in children under 12."

He told a meeting of the Royal Society the story of an 11-year-old girl brought to him by her mother in a wheelchair, apparently virtually paralysed. Her mother was convinced the child was suffering from ME. "I managed to persuade the child to stand up, and eventually to go back to school," Dr Taiz said. "The last I heard she was playing for the school hockey team."

Dr Taiz was not denying the existence of ME, though he

prefers the term chronic fatigue syndrome. Some children, he said, do suffer from exhaustion after a virus disease. "But the important point in children is that the condition is self-limiting, non-fatal and of trivial importance," he said.

His strategy was to explain the trivial nature of the symptoms, avoid doing any tests if possible, and ask the child to be brave and get back to school. It was important also to ensure that genuine problems at school, like bullying, were dealt with. "Never offer home tuition," Dr Taiz said. "If you do that, they never get back to school."

Such children had often been convinced by their parents that they were suffering from ME. The mother of the 11-year-old required considerable persuasion before she would allow the child to leave the wheelchair.

The causes of chronic fatigue syndrome remain obscure. Other speakers at the meeting, organised by the Royal Society and the Association of British Science Writers, reported that attempts to link the condition with a range of viruses had been inconclusive.

Professor Anthony Mann, of the Institute of Psychiatry, said that fatigue was quite common among the public — in surveys one-fifth of men and one-third of women say that they "always feel tired" — which suggested that chronic fatigue syndrome was the extreme end of a continuum that included most people.

If that were true, then the syndrome was rather like high blood pressure, found in many people but life-threatening in only a few.

Richard Edwards, professor of medicine at the Royal Hospital in Liverpool, said that inactivity, recommended by the ME Association to sufferers of the syndrome, was a mistake because it allowed the muscles to weaken, making the condition worse.

Peter White, a senior lecturer in the department of psychiatry, medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said that chronic fatigue syndrome was often linked to depression. That could often be treated successfully with drugs, which might also reduce the fatigue symptoms.

Stricter control of homes

By JILL SHERMAN,
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

SMALL residential homes which have been allowed to operate unchecked are to be more strictly controlled.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, publishing a consultation paper yesterday, said the government was determined to plug a legal loophole allowing anyone to run homes of less than four places.

At present, such homes do not have to be registered with local authorities and are not subject to inspection. The proposed legislation would require all homes to be registered. Local councils would have to satisfy themselves that the owner, applying for registration was a "fit person" and councils would be given power to visit homes.

Smaller homes have proliferated in the past five years and there are now about 2,000. Social services have been pressing for these homes to be registered so that there is control over standards.

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GCSE fails to close gender gap, results show

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of the GCSE has failed to close the gender gap in public examinations. Girls still do better than boys when extended writing is required, while boys thrive on questions involving calculation, according to research published yesterday.

Helen Patrick, research officer for the Cambridge university local examinations syndicate, found notable differences between the sexes in two years' GCSE results in 14 subjects. Her research was the subject of a paper at the British Education Research Association's annual conference in London.

In all examining groups, girls outscored boys in English

language and literature, geography, German and history. Boys consistently did better in mathematics and chemistry. Results in other subjects varied between examining groups, but girls tended to do better in French, physics and craft, design and technology, with the roles reversed in computer studies, biology and business studies.

The differences follow a similar pattern to those found in research on O-levels and other public examinations. In the two English examinations the gap was more than 10 per cent in the proportion of passes at grade C and above. There were also large differences in mathematics and art and design.

"This continuity is one of the features which concerns me about gender differences in public examination results," Ms Patrick said in her paper. "GCSE seems to be perpetuating features of previous examinations which it may not be desirable to perpetuate."

There had been hopes that because the GCSE is a common examination for the great majority of the age group, it would eradicate differences due to subject choice and entry patterns at O-level. The research showed that had not happened. "Another possibility is that results are affected by examiner expectations." The main conclusion of the research, however, was that the nature and content of the examinations encouraged the differences, she said.

Primary school teachers resent the amount of time devoted to assessment under the National Curriculum and believe much of it to be unnecessarily formalised, the conference was told. Researchers from Bristol University and Bristol Polytechnic interviewed 150 teachers to see how their schools were responding to the new curriculum.

Although they found fears about the impact of assessment on teaching and learning, the researchers were optimistic that teachers would use it creatively as they became more confident about their ability to balance external requirements with their professional judgement.

Stress link to unruly classrooms

TEACHERS and pupils suffering from stress are proving to be a disruptive combination, according to research to be published later this month (John O'Leary writes).

A study of life at an inner London primary school by Elizabeth Hawkins, who teaches elsewhere in the capital, will show that teachers under stress from pressures at home and at school cannot control classes as well as their colleagues. Full details of the research will be given to a conference at Newman College, Birmingham, on September 13.

Martin Cole, director of the college's centre for research in teaching and organisational development, said yesterday: "The research provides an undoubted link between stress and the ability to control pupils who are likely to be under stress themselves. Obviously, if there is constant disturbance the quality of learning for the whole class is likely to suffer."

"There has been a lot of anxiety about the number of teachers leaving the profession, but not enough has been heard about the numbers who are staying despite being unhappy and highly stressed."

Eleven arrested after claims over council site deals

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT
THE former deputy leader of Labour-controlled St Helens council on Merseyside was among 11 people arrested yesterday by police investigating allegations of corruption in sales of council-owned land.

The councillor, Brian Green, a left-winger, had the party whip withdrawn last month by Labour's national executive committee after a dispute over council grants to a trade union unemployment centre. He was held by de-

tives in a dawn raid on his home in St Helens, police said.

A team of 45 officers led by Det Ch Insp Mike Culverhouse, of Merseyside fraud squad, executed search warrants at 19 addresses in Merseyside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire early yesterday.

A police spokesman said that the operation followed "allegations of corruption within the St Helens council regarding disposal of property and land sites to property developers".

Those arrested, including council officials, a lawyer and several property developers, were questioned about nine land deals worth several millions of pounds. Later, all eleven were released on police bail. A police spokesman said that a report would be sent to the Attorney-general, Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Police were called in by the council last month after a member of the public alleged irregularities relating to land deals including the sale of St Helens Mansion House and a former museum.

A separate police investigation was also launched into a series of attacks on the council leader, Marie Rimmer, and other leading moderates on the council. Ms Rimmer was physically assaulted and had excrement smeared on her car, another councillor's house was stoned and a third had his car tyres vandalised.

The attacks began after the council voted to cut off funds to a trade union unemployment centre in St Helens that had received £730,000 from the council since 1986.

Mr Green and five other councillors were disciplined by Labour's national executive committee for trying to block the decision to cut off funds to the centre amid allegations that they supported Militant Tendency.

Last year, two of the centre's 20 staff were found guilty of false accounting and the council then sent in its auditors. Police said that there was no connection between yesterday's arrests and investigations of land deals involving Liverpool City Council.

TV union says 2,000 jobs to go

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BETWEEN 2,000 and 3,000 jobs will be lost in BBC network television as a result of the government's 25 per cent quota for independently made programmes, the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance has forecast.

The BBC is to transfer 1,339 hours of programming, at a value of £100 million, to independent producers by 1993. The corporation said that would result in the closure of a quarter of its studio capacity. The BBC has refused to quantify job losses among its 8,000 network staff but Beta said the 25 per cent quota means one in four programme-related jobs would be lost.

An independent report from the accountants Ernst & Young, however, has found that because much of the BBC's costs are fixed, the effect of commissioning 25 per cent of its output from the independent sector would result in a short-term rise in overall BBC costs.

Talks between ITN management and unions, under the conciliation body Acas, were continuing last night. Acas was called in after ITN staff decided to ballot for strike action over ITN's improved 6 per cent pay offer and compulsory overnight working. Staff want a rise in line with inflation.



THE Bishop of Stepney, the Right Rev James Thompson, addressing a memorial service in Hackney, east London, yesterday at the place where PC Laurence Brown was shot dead on duty earlier this week. The bishop led the hundreds of mourners in prayers

and hymns and urged local people to see the murder as a new beginning (Tom Giles writes). PC Brown's widow, Janet, stood quietly at the back of the crowd holding their four-month-old daughter, Emma. She later carefully examined the floral tributes

placed at the scene. Local people, who organised the service, have raised £1,400 for the murdered constable's daughter. PC Brown's funeral with full police honours will take place next week at his local church of St Chad's, Chadwell Heath, east London

Minister postpones poll tax litigation

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday postponed legal action against Lambeth council over its refusal to set a poll tax in line with ministerial guidelines.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, who announced on Thursday that he intended to take the charge-capped, Labour-run council to the High Court, relented in order to allow it to seek legal advice. Lambeth had sought more time on the grounds that its QC was abroad. Mr Patten agreed to extend until next Friday the deadline for setting a new community charge in line with his figures.

The atmosphere of apparent goodwill was swiftly soured when Lambeth said that it would seek compensation of £20,000 a week from the government for the cost of postponing the issue of its revised poll tax bills.

Capping orders issued last month required Lambeth to cut its £285.1 million budget by £8.8 million. Mr Patten said that this should result in a £548 the council had set. The council responded by setting a £521.63 charge, arguing that reduced collection rates meant that it could not afford a cut in line with Mr Patten's figures.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Lord Young on a dramatic election

"I got him by the shoulders and said: 'Norman, listen to me, we're about to lose this f..... election!'" — Lord Young to Norman Tebbit seven days before the 1987 general election. In tomorrow's Sunday Times read the first inside account — by Lord Young — of the rows behind the scenes as the Tory party turned potential defeat to overwhelming victory

The Blitz

"This was their finest hour . . ." When Hitler ordered the Luftwaffe to bomb London to its knees, civilians were brought into the frontline. Tomorrow, 50 years after the Blitz was launched, the Magazine presents a special 18-page report

Guinness women
How will the wives and daughters of the four financiers convicted in the social fall-out? Kate Saunders ponders the prospects

Degree service
An exclusive, updated guide to all the degree and HND vacancies at 72 colleges and polytechnics is published tomorrow in The Sunday Times

FROST'S PREMIER INTERVIEW



Companies reluctant to adopt a formal policy on smoking

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY three-quarters of British companies questioned in a survey had no formal smoking policy in spite of growing evidence that passive smoking is a health hazard, according to the Institute of Personnel Management.

Preliminary results of a study by Professor James McEwan of Glasgow University, commissioned by the institute, showed 72 per cent of the 852 firms surveyed had failed to introduce any formal policies to restrict smoking. The survey, which had a 28 per cent response, showed that even among companies with more than 1,000 employees, 60 per cent had no written policy.

In smaller companies (up to 100 employees) only 10 per cent had written policies. However a quarter of firms

without written policies said they had introduced some informal restrictions.

In 1988 the government's independent scientific committee on smoking, chaired by Sir Peter Frogatt, concluded that passive smoking increased a non-smoker's risk of lung cancer by between 10 and 30 per cent and caused several hundred deaths a year. Many top companies subsequently started to draw up policies fearing they would be vulnerable to an action brought under health and safety at work legislation.

After this week's test case in which the Social Security Commissioner ruled that a civil servant suffering from severe chest and lung pains had suffered an industrial accident through passive smoking, employers are being advised to tighten their policies.

Fred Dickenson, a member of IPM's national committee of pay and employ-

ment conditions, said: "I thought that the Frogatt report was a warning to all employers that they had better provide a smoke-free atmosphere. The survey results are very disappointing and there is a lot of work to do in this area."

"My advice to companies would be to start taking this very seriously. A person may bring a case against the company if he feels a relative has died of lung cancer after working in a smoky atmosphere."

Mr Dickenson is personnel staff director of IBM UK, which has introduced one of the most comprehensive policies in Britain. All 18,000 employees at IBM are banned from smoking at work except in designated areas. Smoking is prohibited in the restaurant, lifts, corridors and lavatories and in all open-plan and private offices. Smoking rooms are provided within reasonable access for those who wish to smoke. The policy

evolved over ten years, starting with a smoking ban in meetings which was extended to offices three years ago. Although smoking is now a disciplinary offence, except in designated areas, no one has been disciplined and the policy has been well accepted.

Other large companies have adopted less rigorous policies, restricting smoking to some areas or to specific times such as meal breaks. British Petroleum has banned smoking in open-plan areas and offices with more than one person. Executives with their own rooms are allowed to smoke and part of the coffee lounge is designated for smokers. A company spokeswoman said: "In the first few months certain people who smoked, had their own office, had an influx of visitors."

She said the policy, implemented in January last year, was put forward by

staff committees rather than the management, reflecting the views of a mainly non-smoking workforce.

Ford, Britain's largest car company, is phasing in a smoking policy for its 12,000 office workers. Smoking is forbidden in office canteens, lavatories and lifts but allowed in work areas, corridors and part of the coffee lounge.

A Ford spokesman said the policy would be extended to offices next January but insisted that designated smoking areas would be provided and the policy would not cover the 30,000 employees in factories. "There is good ventilation in the plants so you don't get the side effect of passive smoking to the same degree as in an office," he said.

London Underground has been criticised for imposing a smoking ban on passengers but allowing staff to smoke in mess rooms. However, last January

London Underground banned all smoking in stations, both below and above the ground. Staff can only smoke out in the street at meal times. The ban follows fire regulations introduced last year.

Marc Flanagan, director of the Workplace Services division of the anti-smoking organisation Ash, which provides a fee-paying service for employers wanting to introduce a smoking policy, says it is vital that employees are consulted at every stage and that the policy is not implemented overnight.

"Any effective policy should allow all workers the right to smoke-free air but it should also provide a designated smoking area," he says. "Allowing people in private offices to smoke was divisive and would be resented. Smoking restrictions must be part of the corporate management policy rather than being set up informally after a staff vote, he said."

Catholics join move to church unification

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

A NEW era in Christian and church unity begins today with the founding of three ecumenical bodies in England, Wales and Scotland that will formally include, for the first time, the Roman Catholic Church.

Anglican, black-led, Free churches, Orthodox and many smaller churches have also joined the bodies, whose ultimate goal is church unity. The churches known as black-led are of mainly West Indian or African membership but are not racially based.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will take part with Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the inauguration of "Churches Together in England" today at St George's Roman Catholic cathedral, Southwark.

The service is regarded as a visible sign of Catholic commitment to the work of the new bodies. They will take over the work of, but bear little other resemblance to, the now defunct British Council of Churches. The Catholic Church had refused to join the council but sent observers to meetings.

The bodies called "Churches Together in Wales" and "Action of Churches Together in Scotland" will also be launched today at services in Aberystwyth, Dyfed, and Dunblane, Central region. An umbrella body, the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland will be launched from the two Liverpool cathedrals next Saturday.

The groups represent a move from co-operation between churches to a firm commitment to working together in unity. It is intended that they should foster much closer liaison and joint effort on issues faced by all the churches in Britain.

The Rev John Reardon, former deputy general secretary of the United Reformed

Church and general secretary of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, said: "This is an opportunity for the churches to demonstrate their commitment to one another. The new bodies will enable us to work more effectively together."

Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, who will address the inaugural service of Churches Together in England, said: "They [the bodies] are necessary for this next stage of our coming together ecumenically; they are not ends in themselves. I see them as a stage along the way to unity."

Previously, he said, ecumenism had been a bit unreal because the Catholic Church was not involved. His decision, and that of some of the Pentecostal churches, to take part fully in the new bodies was a major step. Dr Habgood said the Catholic Church would bring particular gifts to ecumenism: seriousness, the sense of tradition and the requirement to go back to first principles.

According to the influential Catholic journal *The Tablet*, the most difficult task for the new bodies will be to catch the imagination of people. *The Tablet* says that the launch of Churches Together in England in St George's symbolises the Roman Catholic Church's senior partnership in the new structure.

The new bodies, according to the journal, are less ambitious than the British Council of Churches, which was free to construct its own policy but as a result seemed to become detached from a secure membership base. *The Tablet*

calls on the Roman Catholic Church "to show what it thinks commitment really means, particularly as the other churches will tend (at least unconsciously) to measure their degree of involvement by that standard".

East-West church rivalry threatens Christian unity

By OUR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

AN ORGANISATION to maintain contact between churches in the East and West was called for at an international conference at Ampleforth Abbey, York, yesterday.

The four-day conference heard that the collapse of communism throughout Eastern Europe had led to the re-emergence of religious tensions and rivalries.

More than 200 delegates attended "A Time for Change", which ended yesterday.

Father Leo Chamberlain, chairman of the organising committee and head of the history department at Ampleforth College,

said the conference was a triumph of persistence over Soviet and Eastern European bureaucracy. One delegate received his exit visa only hours before he was due to leave the Soviet Union. The conference

had highlighted the need for better channels of communication. National conflicts, old enmities and church rivalries could re-emerge in the new Europe, he said.

Canon Michael Bourdeaux, founder and director of Keston College, said that old fears of the Protestant minority in Poland had been revived. "There are real fears of old tensions having made ecumenical relations between churches more difficult in Eastern and central Europe."

"Taking the lid off Eastern Europe has led to the expression with much greater force of various types of nationalism. The way in which Christianity is often bound up with nationalism, sometimes in its more extreme form, is something of which we have to be wary but it is unquestionably something which has come more to the fore in recent weeks." He

referred to the European Conference on the Environment and Development, which opened in Rio de Janeiro last month.

Report doubts value of 'energy labelling'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

GOVERNMENT plans to reduce the amount of energy consumed by domestic appliances by attaching "energy labels" to them are not likely to be very effective, according to a report to be published on Monday by the Department of Energy.

The Rev Bogdan Tranda, of the Polish Reform Church, said that old fears of the Protestant minority in Poland had been revived. "There are real fears of old tensions having made ecumenical relations between churches more difficult in Eastern and central Europe."

John Bishop, a member of the organising committee, said the conference should serve as a starting point for a continuing process. An organisation to keep the initiative alive could contribute to the strength and cohesion of Christianity throughout Europe and he suggested another conference in Eastern Europe in 1992. The organisers are appealing for sponsorship for such a conference.

Some of the greatest potential savings were in lighting and refrigeration, where savings of up to 70 per cent were possible. However, the benefits would take a long time to filter through if the government relied on encouraging people to buy the most efficient appliances.

Laying down minimum standards of energy efficiency or tax incentives would be needed to reduce the power consumption of appliances such as refrigerators, freezers and washing machines, the March Consulting Group, which produced the report for the Energy Efficiency Office suggests.

The scope for savings and for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases was very large. Consumers could save 40 per cent of their domestic appliance electricity costs, equivalent to £1.5 billion a year, by using the more efficient appliances. Reduced

consumption of energy used by an appliance was not a priority of most British purchasers at the moment, but the gap between the most efficient and the least efficient appliances was huge, and it was not related to price.

Simon Roberts, energy campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said that the report "confirms the complete inadequacy of the government's present plans to improve energy efficiency and cut environmental damage". It wants the government to follow the United States and set minimum efficiency standards, to be met by a fixed date, to compel manufacturers to improve standards.

Curnows explore Cornish roots

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

CORNWALL will echo to the sound of its old Celtic title this weekend when it plays host to one of the largest family parties in its history.

The name of Cornwall will resound again across Mount's Bay, near Penzance, where nearly 300 namesakes from all over the world will converge. Cornwall was Cornwall's name at least as long ago as the 6th century, but has now spread worldwide, most commonly as Curnow, through the wanderings of the county's miners and gold-diggers.

This weekend's gathering of Curnows in Marazion is the culmination of more than two years' research by Howard Curnow, a teacher from the town, who invited 1,500 family members to the party. He admits to being "very surprised" that so many have accepted his invitation to travel thousands of miles to the get-together. Two million miles is his conservative estimate of the total distance travelled by kinsfolk from Australia, Canada, America and New Zealand, not to mention those coming from Aberdeen and from Brittany.

Mr Curnow has traced his own family line back 12 generations to 1570, with the birth of Thomas Curnow, who had 10 children and died in 1634. Another Thomas Curnow is thought to have helped in the capture of the Ned Kelly robbers in the Australian outback.

The complexities of contacting so many people have been matched by the difficulties in booking scores of hotel rooms and hire cars in the name of various Curnows. Mr Curnow has been inundated with letters and telephone calls from new-found relatives. "I have had people sobbing either because they couldn't come or because they were so pleased to know of their connections," he said.

The most will be made of family connections. The farm being used for tonight's party was bought in 1857 by Mr Curnow's great-grandfather, Stephen, who returned to Cornwall after seeing the farm in a newspaper advertisement while on a gold-digging expedition in Victoria, Australia. The Rev Ted Curnow, of Melbourne, Australia, will help to take a service tomorrow at the parish church at St Hilary. Mr Curnow's family tree has been drawn up in America and copies will be sold to the weekend visitors.

Floral glory of revived village

By ROBIN YOUNG

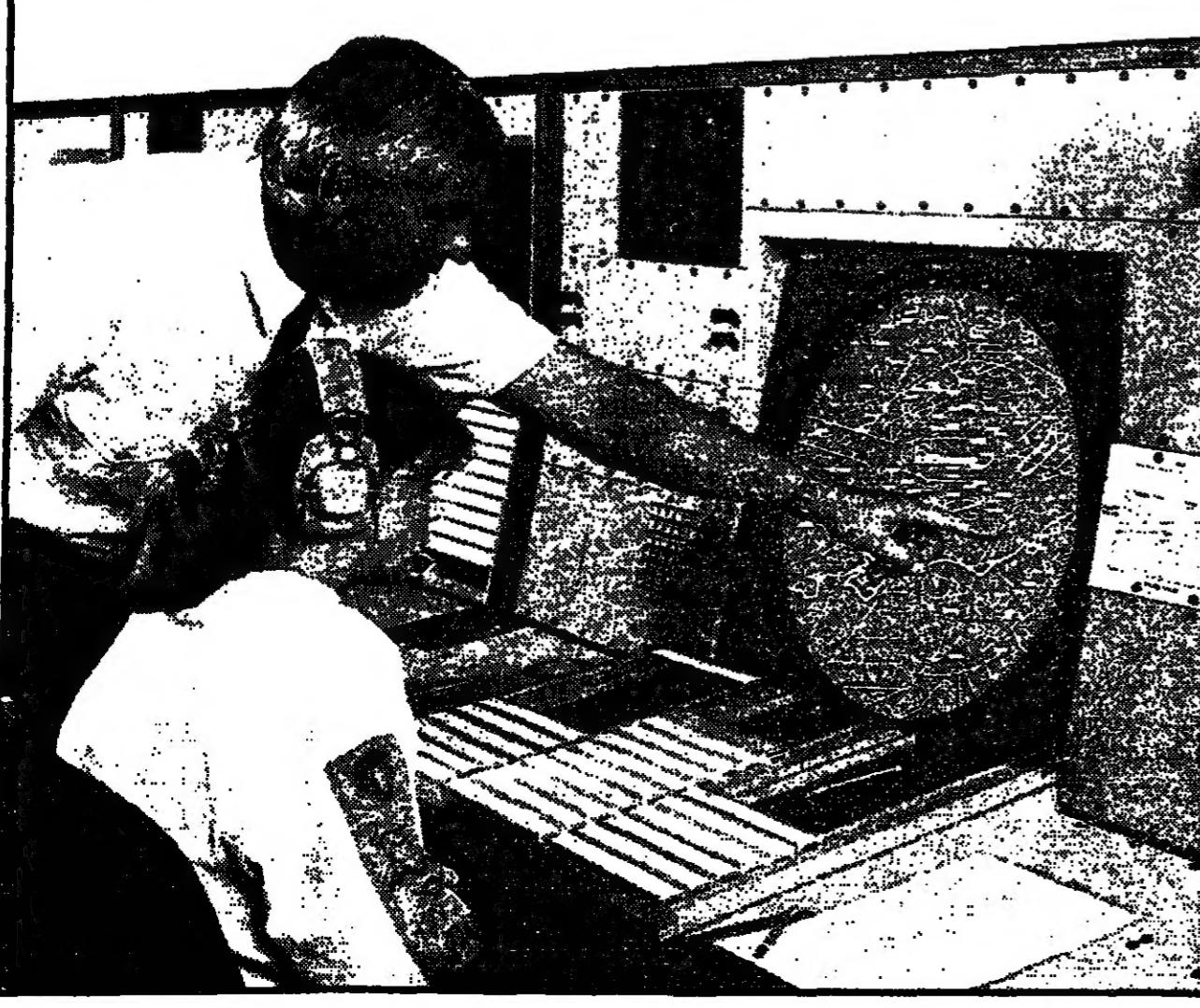
A RECENTLY dilapidated Welsh village with a population of 31 is in contention this year as one of the tidiest and most floriferous places in Britain. At Gwytherin, Clwyd, there are hanging baskets on the public lavatories and fresh-cut flowers in the telephone box, and the village has been chosen to represent Wales in the national competition in the Britain in Bloom contest.

A few years ago, Gwytherin was largely derelict. Its public house and the church had been long closed. Yet in 1988, it won Clwyd's best-kept village competition, and this year, Gwytherin, now with thriving church and pub, was chosen as the most successfully beautified small village in Wales.

The three judges in the small villages section of Britain in Bloom had an eventful visit to the competition's tiniest finalist last week, coinciding with the Gwytherin agricultural show, which is attended by farmers and smallholders, and their livestock, from miles around.

The judges were shown round by Gillian Derbyshire, who raises many of the village's flowers from seed. She also gardens for the elderly and for a recalcitrant few who "can't be bothered". Generally, though, the place is a showpiece of horticultural enthusiasm. The flowers in

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October union of Germanies sealed by treaty signing

By ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF.

THE two Germanies yesterday signed a treaty sealing their unification on October 3, described by Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, as "a great hour in German history", and by Lothar de Maizière, the East German prime minister, as "one of the most important documents in German post-war history."

Herr Kohl, who did not attend the ceremony, spoke of the signing as giving hope to the people and politicians of East Germany.

Wolfgang Schäuble, the West German interior minister, and Gunther Krause, the East German state secretary, met in East Berlin to sign the 1,000-page document bringing into line the legal and political systems of the two countries.

Herr de Maizière, who attended the ceremony held at the 18th-century palace of the crown prince of East Berlin's historic Unter-den-Linden thoroughfare, said: "The outlook for the future has never been more favourable since the end of the war."

The treaty is intended to remove the last discrepancies between the two Germanies and encourage foreign investment in the East by dismantling bureaucratic hurdles. It also protects the rights of East German tenants living in property to which West German citizens lay claim.

In a last-minute compromise on the abortion question, which had threatened to delay the signing, Herr Schäuble and Herr Krause, who headed the negotiating teams, agreed to separate laws on abortion for a two-year transition. West German women will be able to take advantage of the more liberal rules of the East without risking prosecution.

The two sides also agreed that six million former Stasi files would be kept in East Germany after the Volkskammer (people's chamber) objected on Thursday to the treaty's proposals to move them to the Federal Archive Office in West Germany. The East German parliament has said that it is not prepared to risk the documents falling into the hands of the West German security service.

Herr de Maizière admitted that many East Germans were disatisfied with the pace of economic recovery but said that the reforms were proving successful. "The economic and social problem which we now have to fight against are not the result of 143 days of market economy but of

some 15,000 days of socialist centralised planning."

Herr Schäuble said at the East Berlin ceremony: "The treaty... looks like a piece of German perfection, but it isn't. We have dealt only with coin issues and much remains to be worked out." The treaty will go to both parliaments for final approval.

Discontent came from West Germany's Jewish community, whose leader, Heinz Galinski, said he was "pained and disappointed" that no specific mention of Nazi atrocities against Jews was included in the document's preamble.

The treaty is the second important document governing German unity. The first, signed in May, enabled the two states to merge their economies on free market lines with a single currency, the Deutsche mark, on July 1.

With pan-German elections set for December 2, the only outstanding issue is the security status of the future country. Talks between the two Germanies and the second world war allies, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, are expected to end without further difficulty in Moscow on September 12.

• **Bonus:** The West German government yesterday passed a law partially granting amnesty to East German spies. Hans Engelhard, the justice minister, announced. He said the legislation did not grant general amnesty to the East German Stasi, the former secret police involved in espionage.

Action taken by the Stasi, such as blackmail, murder and other reprisals of a political nature, were not included in the amnesty, he said. Those against whom judicial proceedings have already started and who are subject to a sentence of more than three years were also excluded, he added.

Markus Wolf, the former chief of East German espionage, and Hans-Joachim Tiege, the double agent who fled West Germany for East Germany in 1985, were still subject to prosecution, Herr Engelhard said.

East German mole based in West Germany and still not uncovered will not be automatically pardoned, but the legislation gives them the opportunity to come out provided they surface after October 3, when German reunification becomes official.

More than 30 suspected Stasi agents have so far been arrested since the end of 1989 in West Germany. (APF)



Taiwan typhoon: A man in Taipei battles strong winds brought by Typhoon Abe which caused flooding and landslides in north Taiwan before hitting China

Walesa at last joins presidential race

From ROGER BOYES IN GDANSK

LECH Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, bolstered by the union's tenth anniversary celebrations, yesterday launched his campaign for the presidency of Poland. There was no formal declaration of intent, but Mr Walesa's speech in the Gdansk shipyard hall where Solidarity was born clearly laid the foundations for a bid.

Standing next to Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister and a possible rival for the presidency, Mr Walesa made his most statesmanlike speech in more than a year. He emphasised that his repeated criticism of Mr Mazowiecki was merely part of a battle of ideas. Poland had to move more swiftly than under the present administration.

"We have to complete the job that we began here in the shipyards: complete it and then start a new phase," he said. "The revolution is not yet over."

On Thursday, too, he made

clear that he intended to run for the presidency. "If the union wants me to run for it, then it is my duty to do so." The only question was when Mr Walesa would make the switch from a jousting politician, engaging in knockabout with the government, to a presidential candidate.

The switch was made yesterday. Solidarity, he said, was a system of values that spoke for a Poland "without racism, without nationalism, without even the slightest trace of anti-Semitism". That statement marked the first time Mr Walesa had distanced himself from the crude populism of the Polish right.

He has been quoted several times in the past few months, out of context but damaging for all that, as highlighting the Jewish origin of some Solidarity intellectuals, the butt of his criticism. That has attracted fringe nationalistic parties to his cause and his

presidential bid. But after a long audience with the Pope in Rome this week Mr Walesa decided to move to more central ground.

The new-look presidential Lech Walesa preaches tolerance and an all-inclusive policy. "We are Poles first, and only then politicians or unionists." He elaborately praised Mieczyslaw Jagielski, the former deputy prime minister and communist co-signatory of the Gdansk agreement. While the shipyard workers clamour for communists to be driven out of all positions of power, Mr Walesa hailed them for having the sense to surrender to the presidential candidate.

The atmosphere was sour, and only improved a little in a patched-up encounter between the two leaders at the residence of the bishop of Gdansk yesterday morning. But relations between the two are still frosty.

As for President Jaruzelski, he appears not to have been invited to the birthday party. The discussions about his position are now concentrated on how quickly he should move out of his office.

Young and old in Bulgaria gripped by nostalgia for the stability of monarchy

From RICHARD BASSETT IN SOFIA

IN THE bleak concrete Palace of Culture in the heart of Sofia thousands of Bulgarians daily visit a recently opened exhibition devoted to Simeon the Second, aged 53, their king in exile. In the nearby Rakovski Street, named after a communist revolutionary, the offices of Bulgaria's Monarchist party are besieged by well-wishers from all over the country.

Yesterday, in addition to these two areas of royalist fervour, a street exhibition commemorating the Bulgarian royal family which was set up outside the former royal palace attracted hundreds of people within minutes of opening.

The king, who lives in Spain, enjoys several advantages over his fellow dispossessed Balkan monarchs. He is younger than Michael of Romania, brighter than the Crown Prince of Yugoslavia, and less volatile than Prince Leka, son of the legendary King Zog, the heir to the Albanian throne.

Proclaimed king as a minor after his father, Boris, died in mysterious circumstances during the second world war, King Simeon was forced to flee Bulgaria after a rigged communist referendum. Despite more than 40 years' absence from his homeland, he enjoys remarkably widespread respect and support in the country.

The former communists who now rule Bulgaria as socialists have succeeded in preventing the king from returning to what would have been a rapturous welcome. But they no longer dare ban his portrait or pictures of his father. A memorial service for King Boris earlier this month drew tens of thousands of mourners to Sofia.

Many of the visitors to the exhibition in the Palace of Culture are young. They are struck most by the contrast between the bunting-like interior which provides the setting for the exhibition and the scenes on display of an elegant pre-war prosperous Bulgaria. A

nearby visitors' book is eagerly filled with comments. One young student wrote: "Why have we had to wait 25 years to see this important chapter in our history?" Another young visitor simply wrote: "We love our King Simeon."

Politicians from the opposition Union of Democratic Forces umbrella group see the growing uncertainty and instability in the country as encouraging more and more people to turn towards the idea of a monarchy. Even Podkretsa, the independent trade union movement, supports the king. Giorgi Arpadjikov, one of its senior directors, said yesterday:

"We cannot ignore the fact that the monarchies in Europe are today among the most stable countries in the world. But we must first democratic Bulgaria before we invite King Simeon back."

Mr Arpadjikov points out that,

whereas five months ago many people would have dismissed the idea of a monarchy, Bulgarians are increasingly looking towards their exiled king as a sorely needed father figure as the economy has deteriorated.

Family trees of the Bulgarian king which are on display in many shops emphasize his relationship through the fertile German house of Saxe-Coburg with the crowned heads of England, Belgium and Sweden.

Among younger people, there is an increasing awareness that King Simeon may actually be preparing a comeback. "It is not just a dream. Some say he has a card but that he is waiting for the right moment to play it," Sophie Walkova, a young student of medicine, said.

The possibility of a restoration of the Bulgarian monarchy still appears remote in the eyes of most Western diplomats here. Mos-

cow's links with the ruling party are still strong, and the socialists would oppose any restoration which could lead to a radical purge of the communists. But monarchists believe the Soviet Union will soon be so engrossed in its own survival it will be powerless to prevent King Simeon returning.

• **BUCHAREST:** Romania has sent an official delegation to Soviet Moldavia for the first time since Moscow annexed the former Romanian territory in 1940. The Bucharest mayor, Stefan Ciurel, yesterday led an official group of Romanians to the consecration of a statue of Moldavian Prince Stephen the Great, one of Romania's historical heroes, in the Soviet republic's capital, Kishinev. Television showed more than 100,000 people thronging the city's central square to watch Daniel Ciobotea, Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Moldavia, bless the statue.

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Shuttle launch off again

Cape Canaveral — NASA postponed the launch of shuttle Columbia after ground controllers lost radio contact with a telescope in the ship's payload bay, and rescheduled the lift-off for Wednesday.

It was the second delay for Columbia, which was grounded for repairs at the end of May due to a fuel leak. (Reuters)

• **KOUROU:** The 38th Ariane space rocket blasted off from this jungle space centre in French Guiana and put a British military communications satellite and a new European telecommunications satellite into orbit. (AFP)

Murder suspects

New York — Police investigating five murders in the last week in the Florida university town of Gainesville are seeking a number of suspects, including a man wanted for the stabbing death and mutilation of a woman aged 52 in Ohio.

Marchers flee

Abidjan — Ivory Coast security forces charged opposition party marchers, clubbing the crowd with batons and firing tear gas to break up a rally near the residence of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Several hundred demonstrators have sought refuge in the courtyard of the French Embassy. (AP)

Aids jail victim

Sydney — An Australian prison officer aged 21 said he had tested positive for Aids after a prisoner allegedly stabbed him with a syringe containing blood infected with the virus in Sydney's high-security Long Bay jail on July 22. (Reuters)

Mohawk tension

Montreal — Tension between Canadian authorities and Mohawk Indians rose again after Quebec's decision to break off talks with the Indians on dismantling barricades they erected in a land dispute over the proposed expansion of a golf course onto land the Mohawks claim as their ancestral territory. (AFP)

Miners mourned

Tuzla — Tens of thousands of Yugoslavs flocked to the main square of this Bosnian town to pay their respects to 150 coal miners killed in Yugoslavia's worst mining disaster. Rescue workers are still searching for the bodies of about 30 other miners killed in an explosion on Sunday. (AP)

Unita talks fail

Lisbon — A third round of peace talks between Angola's leftist government and US-backed Unita rebels ended without a ceasefire accord to end 15 years of civil war. Portuguese mediators said. The two sides will meet again next month. (Reuters)

Officials blamed in cigarette row

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has accused central and republican government departments of irresponsibility and poor planning in failing to ensure adequate supplies of cigarettes.

The national cigarette shortage has caused long queues at tobacco kiosks in many cities and the past two weeks have seen mass demonstrations in Moscow and Leningrad as frustrated smokers gathered on main streets and stopped traffic.

In a presidential decree published yesterday Mr Gorbachev rejected the explanations offered by supply departments and said the shortage should have been apparent as early as last year. As well as sacking Vladlen Nikitin, A

loaded at one of Moscow's main stations, the queues at kiosks are as long as ever.

The correspondence columns of newspapers have started to reflect criticism of the decision to spend precious hard currency on importing cigarettes when medicines are in such short supply.

As Mr Gorbachev's decree recognises, however, millions of frustrated smokers are a potential force for serious civil unrest. People who should be at work spend up to five hours a day in queues for cigarettes without any guarantee that they will be able to buy any. The combination of no cigarettes and no alcohol provoked rioting in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk last weekend.

his slipping ever closer towards bankruptcy.

"We feel helpless and abandoned, because no matter how hard we work, things are going worse and the government doesn't seem to give a damn. You might read something in the newspapers about beef and lamb prices shooting down and think, well, that must be tough, but you have no idea how terrible the impact is in villages like mine."

Every week, he observes sadly, another of his neighbours calls it a day and abandons the land for good: at this rate, communities that have farmed for centuries will soon disappear. "I can only survive because my wife has an office job in Angers and it is her salary that feeds our family."

Scribbling on a paper napkin, Jean-Luc sets out the harsh arithmetic. The French are eating considerably less beef these days —

consumption fell by 6 per cent last year — while farmers are producing more, fierce foreign competition has cut deep into the domestic market, forcing prices down to levels ruinous for people like Jean-Luc, deeply in debt.

"Of course, we blame the British first, because you are probably the largest single foreign supplier of beef here. But you should note that lorries from Ireland, Denmark and both the Germans are also being ambushed."

As for the lamb market, despite growing demand in France and a big rise in domestic production, British and Irish imports are held largely responsible for a catastrophic fall of almost 12 per cent in prices since last year.

"Our union reckons your sales to France went up by at least 200 per cent in 1989, so you can imagine how we feel about competition from Britain. But at least

his slipping ever closer towards bankruptcy.

High finance, higher ethic

Clifford Longley

Unless they are exceptionally lucky, careful or scrupulous, a few of the above-average number of Jews in the upper echelons of the British business and financial community are bound to be caught up in the occasional business scandal. All four defendants in the Guinness trial were Jews.

From time to time, when Jewish names have been associated with financial controversy, worried words have come from Jewish leaders. But these things are difficult to say. Any attempt to incite anti-Semitism because of Jewish financial misbehaviour has to be deplored and opposed. But any attempt to minimise or excuse the offence is also unacceptable. The sweeping proposition that Jews are especially inclined to sharp business practices would be a dangerous one; but many non-Jews think they are.

From time to time the insulting secondary meaning of the word "Jew" in some dictionaries causes a stir; from time to time new interpretations of Shylock provoke anxious debate. In folk prejudice the "Jewish banker" is an unkind cliché, but herein lies the problem. He exists.

The Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, has taken the line that Jews are likely to be judged by more severe standards than others—but that is an inverted compliment. In financial matters, Jews would have to accept an obligation to behave rather better than anyone else, not just to discount prejudice against them but because the heart of Judaism is always the possibility of goodness, a light unto the Gentiles. So the interpretation of the "choiceness" of the Jews is not so much an extra privilege as an extra responsibility.

This is a good pedagogic basis for addressing the issue of financial scandal in which Jews are involved, for it allows them to be gently reprimanded by their spiritual leaders not for being worse than others but for not being better. Unlike Christianity, Judaism does not have a jaded view of wealth; instead it earns unqualified respect from fellow Jews. Rich Jews are often enormous givers to charity, particularly—and why not?—to Jewish charities. If it is good to give to charity, it must also be good to have the wealth to do so generously.

The disproportionate number of Jews in top financial circles is said to have started with the medieval church's ban on the lending of money for interest—usury, in other words. Jews were exempt from canon law and so they moved into this gap in the market, encouraged, it must be said, by the Christians. The willingness of the Jews to lend money to Christians was useful to the medieval economy and profitable for themselves, but it was most unpopular, to say the least, particularly when unpaid debts had to be collected. So the

despised Jewish moneylender was the creation of Christianity, despised because he was rich; despised because he was Jewish; despised above all, because lending money at interest was regarded as a sin. That he was also necessary is where a good measure of Christian hypocrisy came in. But, human nature being what it is, despising someone hypocritically is a reason for despising him even more.

The sense of the "outsiderness" of the Jews which, though declining, still permeates the British Jewish community, has long antecedents. The society in which they live, and the financial system in which they operate, is not quite their own world, and Jewish culture has many elements of a defensive kind drawn from the habit of centuries, from the necessity of survival in a hostile climate.

There is a tendency for any class which is not the dominant class, particularly one that believes it is discriminated against, to treat the rules of society as rules made by the dominant class and slightly optional for everyone else. The culture of trade unionism in Britain still has this tinge of subversiveness, of wanting to create an enclosed world fenced off from the interference of outside lawmakers. They see laws restricting trade unionism as there to be outwitted, rather than willingly obeyed.

The largest group of such cultural outsiders in Britain is the Roman Catholic community, which consciously sets out to provide for itself a comprehensive set of social and welfare institutions, clubs, schools, hospitals, orphanages, homes for unmarried mothers and the elderly insulated from the moral standards prevailing outside.

Roman Catholics still resist the idea that alterations to the interior of their churches, for instance, should be subject to statutory planning control, as if the inside of a Catholic church were somehow nothing to do with anyone else. Jews have much the same view of a synagogue. Muslims of a mosque.

These "outsider" perspectives give their holders the sense of having only one foot grounded in secular civil society, the other in another place altogether. It generates a highly creative tension, leading to good art and literature, and providing the background for incisive social criticism.

There can be a negative side, however, creating a climate of "us" against "them" in which the rules applying to the way we treat each other do not quite apply to the treatment of "them". Quiet voices are to be heard in the Jewish community from time to time expressing unease that such attitudes are more common than they ought to be among Jewish financiers. And recognising that such a malady exists is the first condition for curing it.

Among the responses to the Kuwait crisis in the American media and among strategic analysts, one of the more prominent has been a sense of satisfaction at the rapid projection of US military force halfway across the globe. After all the worrying talk of decline, it is clear once again that only America has the capacity to despatch large military forces to Saudi Arabia, to deter further Iraqi aggression and preserve international order.

By comparison, the Germans and Japanese, touted as the new economic superpowers, have failed the basic test: the European Community has again displayed the weaknesses of not being a unitary state; a weakened Soviet Union is playing a marginal role.

America is still number one, the actor dominating the world's stage. Far from displaying imperial overstretch, it has robustly demonstrated its quasi-imperial power. The only worry at present is whether the American public has the will to support a conflict that might be long and bloody.

Yet this focus on military capability, or on national will-power, may obscure rather than illuminate the larger question of America's real position in world affairs and the critically important, non-military dimensions of national power. If we allow this to happen, we will be repeating the blindness of many earlier great powers engaged in large-scale military operations abroad.

Consider, for example, Spain's decision in 1634 to send a powerful army into Germany to join its beleaguered Austrian Habsburg cousins during the Thirty Years War. Its infantry and generals were first-rate, its deployment (from Spain, via Milan, the Alps, the upper Rhine) swift and professional, its troops moving to the battlefield from a wide array of Spanish bases and possessions.

No other European nation at the time could equal such force projection; Spain, it was clear, was still number one militarily. Yet in the non-military dimensions of power it was beginning to sag badly: massive debts, inefficient industries, reliance on foreign manufacturers, vested interests that debilitated rather than strengthened.

Little attention was paid to those features in the excitement of watching the glittering Spanish battalions pour into the Rhine land. By the 1640s, however, the suspension of interest payments and declarations of bankruptcy by Spanish kings revealed the decline of Spanish power.

Or consider the stupendous British force projection in the South African war, 6,000 miles from home, at the turn of the century. Before that war was won, the British had poured in more than 300,000 troops from all over the globe—India, the Near East, Australia, Canada and Britain itself. Simultaneously, the Royal Navy controlled the sea lanes; British cable communications had a world-wide monopoly; no other contemporary power could equal its global position.

In the upsurge of British patriotism, however, it was easy to forget the other part of the story: the inadequate educational system, the meagre levels of investment, industry's growing uncompetitiveness, the vast trade deficit in manufactured goods. Those weaknesses would one day cause the collapse of British power.

Is there a lesson here for the US?

Many will doubtless claim that

America in 1990 is not like Spain in 1634 or Britain in 1900. (And they will be right: no two countries in history are ever alike.) But that misses the basic point, which is that to remain number one generation after generation requires not just military capability, but a flourishing and efficient economic base on which the nation's military strength ultimately rests.

This, then, is the larger irony of President Bush's bold commitment of strong American forces to Saudi Arabia. The cause may be just, the deployment impressive and the actual fighting by US forces—if it comes to that—may demonstrate efficiency and resolve. But all this will divert

national attention, energies and resources from dealing with America's growing fiscal, technological and educational weaknesses. Mr Bush, like Philip IV of Spain, prefers the glorious role of commander-in-chief to haggling over budget deficits; and much of the American media reflects that inclination.

The most significant news item of recent weeks, however, was not dated Baghdad or Kuwait—but appeared on an inside page of *The Wall Street Journal* on August 21. It reported that next year's budget deficit will almost certainly be the largest in American history, between \$250 billion and \$300 billion.

The cost of the military deployment (estimated by some to reach \$1.5 billion before October, even if no shots are fired), the likelihood of smaller cuts in overall defence spending (or none at all), the difficulty of raising the tax on petrol, the economic slowdown

and consequent fall in revenues, will all weaken America's fiscal position. In consequence, the cuts in government spending authorised by the Gramm-Rudman budget law probably likely be cancelled by legislation later this year.

Is it any surprise that the dollar's value has been sagging, the stock market tumbling, and voices are heard demanding that super-rich Japan and Germany help pay the spiralling cost of America's force projection?

The United States may get out of the Gulf quite soon without serious fighting and cost. On the other hand, it may be dragged into a long and expensive stay in the Arab world which, whatever the military outcome and popular mood, will certainly worsen its fiscal position and make it increasingly dependent on foreign capital, as happened to Britain when it lingered too long east of Aden until the Suez crisis.

For that reason alone, it may be premature to dismiss Tokyo and Bonn as being relegated to the margins of world affairs. Imperial overstretch has rarely occurred because a great power had too little military force; on the contrary, it was likely still to possess massive forces and at times to deploy them a long way from home. The real problem, it seems, has not been the force-projection capacities of the current number one, but a failure to recognise that long-term wealth and strength depend on the non-military dimensions of national power and on making hard political decisions on the home front.

The emperors, kings, prime ministers and presidents of great powers have always preferred the heady world of diplomacy, war and international affairs to the unglamorous realms of fiscal reform, educational change and domestic renewal. That is understandable, since they will go down in history as leaders of this or that spectacular demonstration of the country's still-powerful military capacity. It is left to later generations to pay the price.

By GREGORY COUTURE/Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Paul Kennedy, a professor of history at Yale University, is author of *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*.

Paul Kennedy, citing historical precedents, sees Bush engaged in a classic example of imperial overstretch

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Marcus Binney sets out a programme to preserve the heritage of Britain's inner cities

New life for the castles of industry

As it considers the call by Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, to spend £1 billion to repair Britain's museums and galleries by the year 2000, the government should not overlook great buildings languishing for want of use.

France offers an example. A chain of former abbeys now known as the Centre Culturelle de Roncourt house state-supported and voluntary arts and research bodies. They are open to the public, hold art, science and industry exhibitions and are used as conference centres. They include the 8th-century Abbey of the Premonites, near Nancy, Fontevraud by the Loire, and Senanque near Orange, which contains a centre for Gregorian chant.

The joker in the pack is Louis

XVI's neo-classical saltworks, Arc-et-Senans, near Besançon, now the portentously named Centre for Reflections on the Future.

The conference facilities are fully booked throughout the year and even the TGV makes a special stop on the way to Lorraine. In the great steam houses where the salt was dried, audiences of 2,000 or more watch ballet and drama. Nearby is the best architectural bookshop in France.

"He's stalling," someone said.

"One," shouted some cruel soul in the audience. "Two," the cry was taken up.

There was a pause after

"Ten", then smash. Thin slivers of glass poured down over the Indian's head and his face was covered in fine white powdered chemical. A yelp of astonishment rose from the onlookers. In one hand, he held one half of the fluorescent tube, at the top of which the directors dined on the opening night. There are encouraging signs that the environment department may soon approve a big grant for Manningham Mills, with a new hotel in one range and a northern home for part of the V&A's Indian collection in the other.

Moving south, the next major candidate could be the spectacular Maltings at Steeple in Lincolnshire. "For sheer impressiveness,"

As England's great abbeys were largely destroyed during the Reformation it is Arc-et-Senans to which we should look. For what Britain does possess is an unsurpassed series of major industrial monuments: mills, maltings and warehouses and magnificent naval dockyards. Here the government could give new impetus to initiatives already underway — part voluntary, part commercial — many enjoying local authority support.

My first candidate would be Manningham Mills in Bradford, which soars above the city like the Capitoline Palace in Rome. In layout it is rather more like Florence's Uffizi, with twin parallel ranges and a chimney as elaborate and nearly as tall as the Campanile in St Mark's Square — at the top of which the directors dined on the opening night. There are encouraging signs that the environment department may soon approve a big grant for Manningham Mills, with a new hotel in one range and a northern home for part of the V&A's Indian collection in the other.

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Unlike Labour, the Tories have not yet started to track down their backbenchers but estimates vary between a 70 and 90 per cent turnout.

One whip is already on his way back from Florida and another on a plane home from Zimbabwe. A third, already manning the fort, says: "When we telephone our flock most will come straight back. There will be a few on package holidays committed to a specific flight home and one or two will be out of contact because they are on safari."

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Presumably the tom-toms are already being arranged.

Chatterley challenge

The model for the upwardly mobile lover of the Great Western's Lady Chatterley was not a British gardener at all but a Sicilian mule-driver called Pepino. At least, so says a book just published in Italy, which also claims that the inspiration for the errant high society lady was none other than the novelist's wife, Frieda Lawrence.

According to the Italian writer and journalist Gaetano Saglimbeni in *The Sins And Loves Of Taormina*, a spicy account of goings-on in the once fashionable resort. Frieda began a torrid affair with the muleteer in a garden vineyard when she was 43 and he 24. According to Saglimbeni, Pepino D'Allura boasted of his exploits in the pubs and clubs of Taormina and was only the first in a line of Frieda's Italian lovers.

Lawrence experts are sceptical. Jeffrey Meyer, author of a new biography of Lawrence published yesterday, says: "It's not inconceivable that this man had sex

Lancashire has any number of textile mills suitable for conversion, but the most spectacular challenge is posed by the 14-storey tobacco warehouse in Liverpool—the largest brick warehouse in the world. A scheme has been drawn up to convert the building almost into a self-contained city, with an exhibition centre and shops on the ground floor, four storeys of car-parking above and offices and apartments on the upper floors.

Scotland and Wales both have prime candidates. In Paisley is the handsome Ferguslie Mill, the best building of its kind in Scotland, now fast becoming derelict. In south Wales stands the Brynmawr Rubber Factory, the greatest monument in the Festival of Britain style outside London, with nine huge shallow domes on a noughts and crosses plan, each lit by a central ocular.

Some of the most dramatic transformations have been carried out by private entrepreneurs. The mill at Saltair, outside Bradford, the centrepiece of a model village of nearly 1,000 houses created by Sir Titus Salt, has sprung back to life since Jonathan Silver acquired it some three years ago. It now houses Britain's largest collection of Hockneys, and two floors were recently let to electronics firms.

In Halifax, Ernest Hall took on more than a million square feet of empty space at Dean Clough Mills. Now it houses 200 small companies, employing 2,500 people. Insurance companies have occupied whole floors, followed by the Halifax Building Society.

Some 20 years ago the government commissioned four great schemes of historic towns—Bath, Chester, Chichester and York—which not only led to major conservation programmes in each but became the foundation of conservation policies in historic towns across the country.

Now it has a similar opportunity. By co-ordinating existing grant programmes, by injecting new funds into existing voluntary projects, and initiating a small number of wholly new ventures, the government could produce a spectacular programme of restoration and regeneration which need not cost vast sums. It would bring conservation enterprise to those areas that most need it—industrial cities which until recently have been in decline, and to the heart of the inner city, where new jobs are urgently needed.

The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

whose prints have become almost a by-word for graceful English fashion? "It's been done in the most tasteful way," says Rosie

That's really taking Liberty's

GED.

Arnold of the Bartle Boggs Hegarty advertising agency. "The ad is a respectful obituary to Isadora as well. There is no suggestion that if you buy a Liberty scarf you might end up strangled to death in your Bugatti on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice. You are supposed to keep your feet a little bit on the ground when reading it."

As enthusiasts gather in Glasgow this weekend for the International Concours of the Miniature Book Society, one man will not be able to show off the pride of his collection. Ian MacDonald thought he had the best example of all. He sent the book, little more than an inch long and bound in red leather, to his local library. It was dropped on the floor, which had a red carpet. Someone was using a vacuum cleaner at the time, and the book has not been seen since.

Bad taste from a company

Pitting his wits

Author Scargill's disclosure that he is writing a book about how he managed to outwit the receiver, the sequestrators and the courts during the miners' strike appears to have caught the publishing world

by surprise



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

SIREN VOICES IN THE GULF

King Husain should not have been surprised by Mrs Thatcher's refusal yesterday even to consider his "solution" to the tension in the Gulf. Almost inevitably at this stage, would-be peacemakers are searching for shades of grey with which to soften the starkness of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

The King's pastel sketch would hand Iraq a barely camouflaged victory. He proposes parallel withdrawals of Iraq from Kuwait and foreign forces from Saudi Arabia, an Arab peacekeeping force in the emirate and a referendum or elections six months later to choose a new government — which would assign Iraq certain rights over Kuwait.

King Husain's is not the only scheme on the market. As weeks go by without an Iraqi withdrawal and American forces increase their combat-readiness, there will be more calls for ways to save face for President Saddam Hussein. These will take two principal forms. The first will seek (as Saddam himself has suggested) a link between Kuwait and other Middle Eastern imbroglios. The second will involve inserting a "democratic" subtext into the UN resolutions, on the ground that the West must not be seen to side with autocratic privilege, as exemplified by Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family.

Yesterday, with the ink barely dry on Neil Kinnock's thoroughly supportive letter to Mrs Thatcher requesting the recall of parliament, the shadow foreign secretary, Gerald Kaufman, tried his hand at the first genre. Once Iraq had withdrawn, he said, the UN should immediately convene a conference to defuse the entire "Middle East powder-keg". His agenda included self-determination for the Palestinians, peace treaties between Israel and all its neighbours, a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and — pious hope — a "code of practice" governing arms sales to the region.

Dilution of the central fact of Iraq's aggression is no recipe for the peace on earth and goodwill to all men Mr Kaufman seeks. Even before parliament meets, Mr Kinnock should disavow any thought of countenancing such famous linkage. The second strand of thinking is superficially more attractive.

The West's commitment to restoring Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity, this argument runs, need not, perhaps should not, imply shoring up the al-Sabah throne. There is a "golden opportunity" to make Kuwait a

model democracy, free to choose its rulers. Western publics, it is maintained, will demand no less, if western forces are to protect the emirate after Iraq retreats. Perhaps, therefore, the United Nations should oversee free elections?

The security council's resolution 661 commits the United Nations "to restore the authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait". The al-Sabah claim is the only legitimate one, as even Kuwait's opposition agrees.

The distinction between encouraging democracy, and imposing it, should be clearly drawn. Stability in the Middle East may ultimately depend on the emergence of governments accountable to, and mandated by, popular vote. But talk of UN-supervised political reform in Kuwait is patronising, irresponsible and if acted on would be unlawful. To attach conditions to the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty would not only represent a victory for Saddam, one of whose early demands was the al-Sabahs' departure, but would be a disgraceful intrusion in the internal affairs of a country which has suffered enough from unwanted foreign attentions.

There must be no fudging of the UN resolutions: unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and restoration of Kuwait's legal government. Kuwaitis must be free to sort out their own salvation, resuming the national debate over the restoration of parliamentary democracy (with which, in contrast to most of its neighbours, Kuwait has actually experimented) rudely interrupted by Iraq's invasion.

Westerners would do well, meanwhile, to recall that in a country where 60 per cent of the pre-invasion population was foreign, universal suffrage is not a simple matter. It will be even less simple now, since even if Iraq is forced to withdraw, Saddam will have had weeks in which to reinforce his fifth column.

Kuwait is a relatively advanced polity and has an articulate and well-educated middle class. The al-Sabah family has an interest in rebuilding national confidence and is likely to be more receptive than before to demands for political freedom. Close contact with, and gratitude to, their Western allies will assist the process. None of this will happen unless Saddam is decisively driven back. The world should concentrate on that with all the single-mindedness at its command.

COAL IN THE RED

Digging coal is no more a natural monopoly than catching fish or harvesting wheat. But since British mines were nationalised in a wave of emotion after the second world war, they have been so cosseted against foreign competition that they would now last barely a week in the private sector. This year's results from British Coal only serve to emphasise how difficult — or painful — privatisation would be.

To its credit, the industry has slumped down hugely since the 1984-5 miners' strike. Then it had 169 collieries and 221,000 workers; now, 69 collieries and a workforce of fewer than 80,000. Productivity has more than doubled. But still this progress is not enough for the industry to stand on its own feet.

British Coal sells 97 per cent of its output in Britain, at prices 50 per cent above the world market price, thanks to fixed contracts with power stations. Yet despite this cosy arrangement, the company's operating profit fell from £498 million to £133 million in the 1989-90 financial year. That meagre profit was more than wiped out by a painful £574 million interest charge.

After restructuring costs, the bottom-line loss was £5.1 billion. These costs, of course, are one-off, and the restructuring of the company's debt will mean that interest charges will be much lower in the future. But British Coal still has not sorted out its management problems: productivity in the past year rose less than half as fast as running costs; and there were 173 local disputes, 160 of them in Arthur Scargill's home base of Yorkshire. Most pits lie idle for one day a week, some for two.

Nor does the longer term look rosy. British Coal's contracts to supply the new electricity generating companies provide a measure of stability, but only for three years. After that the power generators will have the freedom to buy as much imported coal as they like, subject to

any EC tariff restrictions, and will owe it to their shareholders to buy coal at the lowest possible cost. At current prices, it is cheaper to put Australian coal on a boat, sail it halfway round the world, unload it at British docks and transport it to inland power stations, than to buy it from British Coal. The difference is due partly to geological good fortune, partly to more flexible working practices. The former is bad luck on Britain; the latter can and should be addressed.

The hard truth is that British Coal has to contract still further, some say by as much as half, before it can become economically viable. Many pits are still uneconomic and will have to be closed if British coal is to become internationally competitive, though if miners could be persuaded to do more weekend shifts, the number of closures could be reduced.

To make matters worse, environmental worries mean that power stations are under pressure to burn gas rather than coal; and low-sulphur rather than high-sulphur coal. British coal tends to be high in sulphur, and getting rid of the chemical is very expensive. Not to get rid of it, however, leads to acid rain; and Britain has entered international commitments to clean up the output of its smokestacks.

Unless British Coal manages to renegotiate favourable contracts with the generating companies in 1993, its revenues will be highly uncertain. It will not be an attractive investment proposition — except perhaps to the generating companies themselves, who might want to control their own supply. But even they will have to be persuaded that domestic coal could be produced more cheaply than it can be shipped in and more cheaply than gas. At current levels, there is no reason to suppose that it can. Thursday's results were bad news for the industry; further contraction is now inevitable.

As the Middle East totters on the brink of war and governments strive to fend off economic recession, an encouraging glimmer of light shines through the darkness: *Times* readers have rediscovered Peter Rabbit.

An item in *The Times* Diary three weeks ago reported that while Noddy was being taken to the cleaners — golliwogs and spanking sessions have been censored — Beatrix Potter's most celebrated hero was to star in a £12 million film. The producer assured his public unequivocally that Peter was morally and ethically squeaky clean.

But was that so? His biographer described him as "very naughty". Readers have pointed out that he not only disobeyed his mother but along with his young cousin, Benjamin Bunny, was a habitual thief and mischief-maker — despite the whippings dealt out by Bunny Senior.

Correspondents who have leapt to his defence have argued that Peter was below the age of criminal responsibility. Though guilty, it would seem, of two offences, namely criminal damage and theft (of Mr McGregor's lettuce, radishes and French beans), his youth should have saved him from the full majesty of the law. Justice would best be served, suggested one reader, by Mr McGregor seeking compensation against Peter's mother under the small claims procedure in the county court.

On the other hand the aggrieved Mr McGregor should beware of pressing his case against widow Rabbit, who could file a counter-claim against him in respect of the loss of her late husband's support. How far Mr Rabbit was the author of his misfortune would

probably be the principal legal issue if the case were heard under the Fatal Accidents Act. But the evidence that he was "put in a pie by Mrs McGregor" would probably sway the court against the plaintiff — and in favour of the widow. The consequent damages payable by the gardener would far exceed the cost of his own vegetables.

Peter Rabbit was not alone in setting a poor example to our children. Squirrel Nutkin and Tom Kitten were young tearaways and Samuel Whiskers a bit of an old rogue. Jemima Puddleduck was more sinned against than sinning. She was always such a bad sitter that her eggs had to be taken away at birth and placed in care. But perhaps poor Jemima was a frustrated careerist for whom the farmer should have provided a crèche.

Winnie the Pooh was obese, lazy and illiterate. William Brown was in most respects worse. As for Alice, the object of Lewis Carroll's infatuation, she would have taken sweets from any stranger. Confronted by a bottle inscribed "Drink Me", Alice resisted the temptation only momentarily. After tasting it — "I had a sort of mixed flavour of cherry tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee and hot buttered toast" — she promptly drank it.

It seems hardly surprising that after next swallowing a cake marked "Eat me" she started seeing caterpillars smoking hookah pipes, sitting on magic mushrooms. Alice in wonderland was desperately in need of moral guidance. And as for that young chalet maid, Snow White... How successive generations of British children have turned out as well as they have is to be marvelled at.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Buyers as threat to sheep farmers

From Mr Charles Wynn

Sir, Sheep farmers in France are getting a bad press over here (report, August 30, later editions). But the French have a point, and British farmers ignore it at their peril.

On both sides of the Channel flockmasters have a common enemy, the supermarket buyer. More than 70 per cent of all lambs slaughtered in this country are sold to the British public by five national retail groups at hefty profit margins.

The strength lies with this powerful buyer, not with small, disorganized sellers. In France the situation is similar and the problems are made that much worse by the traditional size of flocks and the geography. French sheep farmers do not specialize, so 500 ewes is a large flock, and they do not have the hill/lowland structure which makes ours such an efficient industry.

So far we have had it pretty good in this country, but the demise of the EC's variable premium, over-production and the weather have changed all that. Hence the increase in exports. But the profits of our opposite numbers in France are already pared to the bone by the supermarkets, so their reaction is understandable.

The constructive response would be for British sheep farmers to learn from the French about breeding for conformation and leaniness to meet the housewife's requirements and teach them a bit, in turn, about efficient production. The relationships thus forged would be an ideal basis for forming the major marketing co-operatives needed if producers are to match up to the buying power of supermarkets in the years ahead.

We can also learn a lot from them about politics. Act like desperate men and the public take seriously. Grouse-like gentlemen through the NFU and the whingeing farmer myth is perpetuated.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES WYNN,
Hurst House,
Wittersham, Kent.

From Mrs Nora Southall

Sir, Is it not time that legislation was passed by Parliament to stop the transport of livestock to the Continent for slaughter. The system of sending animals abroad for slaughter is inhumane and the pictures witnessed on the TV news barbare.

Yours sincerely,
NORA SOUTHALL,
36 Stockwell Road, Tettenhall,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
August 30.

Conflict in the Gulf

From Mrs M. Hossain

Sir, John Gray ("Worse than a maidman: a fanatic exploiting religion", August 28) has done a great injustice to Islam and Muslims. It seems he has escaped his notice that Saddam Hussein has been involved (with Western support) in a long war against another Muslim country (Iran), has overrun a neighbouring Muslim country (Kuwait) and is threatening the Muslim country which contains the two holiest places of Islam, Mecca and Medina.

None of this was done for Islam, "militant" or otherwise. Saddam Hussein's aggressive behaviour resembles that seen in tyrants and dictators throughout history in both East and West.

John Gray does a grave disservice to understanding between Muslims and Christians by describing Muslims as having "a radically different mentality". This smacks too much of dehumanising your opponent prior to annihilating him.

Muslims exist throughout the whole world and are as rational as anyone else. Indeed they would claim that the Koran puts a high premium on reason and invites

human beings to think. John Gray's article is irrational in that it distorts the facts in order to make Islam a bogeyman for the West, whatever the complexities of the real situation.

Yours faithfully,
M. HOSSAIN,
6 Mount Pleasant,
Belfast.

August 28.

From Mrs B. S. Watson

Sir, In this world crisis Iraq and other Muslim countries talk of the unacceptability of foreigners in the vicinity of their holy places. Iraq has even dared to suggest a holy war on this account.

Is it not strange that there is, as yet, not so much as a whisper regarding the precious sites and treasures of Christianity both in Jordan and Israel? These could be exterminated together with the surrounding terrain in the event of open conflict. Surely it is time for somebody to speak up and show that we too value our faith and holy places.

Yours truly,

B. S. WATSON,
Tumblethorpe, 18 Bourne Avenue,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

August 24.

From pillar to post

From the Rector of Ashton-in-Makerfield

Sir, The Rector of Odd Rode (August 21) is not alone in having address problems. I pay my poll tax to St Helens, which is now in Merseyside, but my postal address is Wigan, Lancashire, although Wigan is now in Greater Manchester. Life, in ways too numerous to mention, was so much easier in the days of old county boundaries.

In the last two months I have received much mail, correctly addressed, but wrongly delivered, including a chequebook for my next-door neighbour and a bank statement for the Rector of Wigan. My favourite, however, was a letter, correctly addressed and postcoded, to the Rector of Wigton, some many miles away in Cumbria. I must own that I was unable to resist the temptation to write upon the envelope, "Try posting the postcode".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ABBOTT,
The Rectory,
North Ashton,
Wigan, Lancashire.
August 21.

From Ms Olive Trewick

Sir, The Rector of Odd Rode finds himself in a quandary which

would not have happened had we not allowed ourselves to be "conned" at the time the administrative counties were re-styled.

The White Paper preceding the 1974 legislation specifically stated that traditional counties would remain for all other purposes — county loyalties would be unaffected.

Yet the Post Office and a number of non-statutory bodies including Ordnance Survey and the National Trust appear to have extended the remit of the Act to every aspect of county recognition.

There is a considerable movement in this country working to try and rectify this position by using the traditional counties on personal and business stationery and in addressing outgoing post. The postcode — as is the last item on the address — is used as well, to aid the Post Office sorting mechanism.

If more people were to adopt this procedure, the postal sorting problem would be relieved and a lot of ruffled feathers would be soothed.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVE TREWICK,
14 The Rows, York Road,
Wetherby,
West Riding,
Yorkshire LS22 5EB.

August 21.

Classical hits

From Mr David Lee

Sir, May I set today's third leader straight. The title of the hit song taken from Chopin's *Fantaisie Impromptu* is "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" (you probably muddled it up with "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles").

Among other hit songs from classical themes are "Full Moon and Empty Arms" (Rachmaninov); "This is the Story of a Starry Night" (Tchaikovsky) and "Baubles, Bangles and Beads" (Britten).

And wasn't it Puccini, not Verdi, who was the composer of *Turandot*?

May I also point out that the pop-loving public does have good taste in both classical music and jazz, when it is given the chance to hear them.

Sincerely,

DAVID LEE
(Founder and Director of Music),
London Jazz Orchestra plc.

The Jazz House,
Castlereagh Street, W11.

August 30.

If the greenhouse effect results in dramatic changes in climate, the consequences will make Chernobyl and Bhopal pale into insignificance. Unfortunately, these consequences will be of the same kind as those to which we are already accustomed — floods, droughts and famines. They do not frighten us enough.

In effect, we seem to be gambling that the greenhouse effect will be prevented by simple changes or, at worst, controlled by expensive but not catastrophic remedial steps. Given the difficulties of effective prevention, that may not be the wrong choice, but we should at least review the alternatives, possibly along the following lines.

We should now be seriously considering a massive increase in public transport, extensively electrified; private transport using only non-carboniferous fuels, e.g., electricity or hydrogen; non-fossil

fuels for energy replacing fossil fuels for electricity generation; and an end to the domestic combustion of fuels, with restrictions on their industrial combustion.

Inefficient and unnecessary energy should already be discouraged. Initially, all this effort would have to be concentrated in the industrialised nations, but economic support would be given to encourage similar programmes in the Third World and the development of the use of solar energy in tropical areas.

Even if spread over many decades, this kind of programme would be staggeringly expensive. We may not want to invest resources on that scale to avoid a disaster that may never happen. That is the gamble that the world is facing.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. DUNSTER (Director,
National Radiological Protection
Board, 1982-7).

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Justice and the Birmingham Six

From Mr Jeremy Maurice

Sir, In your leader, "Justice of appeal" (August 30), you state that even fair-mindedness cannot be taken for granted in

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

Opera

The Duchess of York will attend the Amazing Great Children's Party in Battersea Park on September 12 in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Foundation for Children with Leukaemia.

The Duchess of York will attend the Sports Aid Foundation Winter Sports Gala at the John Nike Sports Centre, Bracknell, on October 6.

Prince Edward, as Patron of the Cambridge Youth Theatre, will visit Warsaw on September 8 and 9 to attend the theatre's production of *Germinal*.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Edward Alleyn, actor-manager, founder of Dulwich College, London, 1566; Marguerite Gardiner, Countess of Blessington, novelist, Knockbridge, Co Tipperary, 1789; Carl Auer von Welsbach, chemist and physicist, Vienna, 1858; Roger Casement, Irish nationalist, Kingstown, Co Dublin, 1864; James Corbett, Gentleman Jim, heavyweight boxing champion 1892-97; San Cisco, 1866; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist, creator of Tarzan, Chicago, 1875.

DEATHS: Nicholas Breakspeare, Poet Adrian IV, 1154-XIV, Anagni, Italy, 1159; Louis XIV, King of France 1643-1715; Vermales, 1715; Sir Richard Steele, essayist, Carmarthen, 1729; Sir Richard Westmacott, sculptor, London, 1856; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, Croydon, 1912; W. W. Jacobs, short story writer, London 1943; Siegfried Sassoon, poet and novelist, 1967.

School announcements

Ardingly College
The Michaelmas Term at Ardingly College begins on Sunday, September 2. The Rev Vickery House takes up his appointment as Chaplain. Katie Budd (Woodard) is Head Prefect. Miller's Field will be reopened as an Artificial Playing Surface on Sunday, September 16, by David Whittaker Esq., OBE, and celebrated with a Hockey Festival. Open Mornings will be held on Saturday, September 22 (L.VI), October 13 (13+) and November 10 (11+ and Assisted Places). The Sixth Form section season for entry is September 1991. Including Academic and Music Scholarships competitions, will take place during the week commencing November 19.

The Chapel Chorus and Orchestra will perform Faure's *Requiem* on Sunday, November 11, and the Choral Society will perform Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 9. There will be an Advent Carol Service by candlelight on December 4 and the Christmas Carol Services will take place on December 11 and 12. Term ends on Friday, December 14.

Epsom College
The Michaelmas Term begins tomorrow with 660 pupils at the College. Mr Michael Squibbs succeeds Mr Murray Young as Second Master. Heads of School during the academic year will be Nicholas Carter, Paul Burke and Simon Williams, with the exception of major sports being Paul Burke (rugby), Stuart Head (hockey), Pierre Roche (cricket) and Alastair Nicklin (athletics). The Guaranteed Places Examination for Preparatory School boys will be held on Saturday, September 22, and the Entrance Tests for Girls seeking admission to the Sixth Form in 1991, during November. Term ends with the Carol Services on December 16.

Felsted School
Autumn Term at Felsted began on August 30. Mr H.K. Mainland succeeds Mr F.M. Craven as Second Master and Mr N.J. Spring succeeds Mr T.R.P. Lawrence. Headmaster of Windsor J.D. Smedley (Follyfield) is Head of School. There has been an Old Felstedian Reunion at the School on October 6, for those at

Birthdays

Hugh Macdonald Sinclair
A memorial service for Hugh Macdonald Sinclair, CBE, FRCP, Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Director of the International Institute of Human Nutrition, will be held in Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford, at noon on Saturday, October 13, 1990. The service, in Chapel is free. An reception will be held at the Principal's residence, the Vice-Chancellor's residence, 30 New College Lane, Oxford, at 1.30pm. The service will be followed by a reception at the Principal's residence, 30 New College Lane, Oxford, at 1.30pm.

Polytechnic news
Hatfield

The following have been appointed professors
Dr Tom Hanabusa (dean of School of Health & Human Sciences), Dr Derek Spurgeon (director of studies, School of Engineering). Readerships have been granted for:
School of Health and Human Sciences, Dr Diana Kornblot (reader in mathematical psychology); Dr David Messer (reader in developmental psychology); Dr Michael Brown (reader in modern English literature); Dr Robin Campbell (reader in primary education).

School of Information Sciences: Dr Mike Bartholomew-Biggs (reader in computational mathematics); School of Natural Sciences: Dr Brian Pigott (reader in organic chemistry).

Luncheon
Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host yesterday at a luncheon held at 10 Downing Street in honour of King Hussein of Jordan. The other guests were Mr Mudar Badran, Sheriff Zeid bin Shaker, Mr Adam Abu Odeh and Mr Charles Powell.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR RONALD GREAVES

Ronald Ivan Norreys Greaves, formerly Professor of Pathology at Cambridge, died on August 29 at the age of 82. He was born on July 15, 1908.

RONALD Greaves was the leading physical pathologist of his time. He took a paramount part in transforming the study of disease from a descriptive and empirical subject into an exact science based on accurate physical observations. His flair for designing physical methods and applying them to biological problems revolutionised knowledge about the effects of heat and cold on living cells, while his work on drying blood plasma for transfusion saved countless human lives.

Greaves was the son of Arthur Ivan Greaves, Bishop of Grimsby, and was educated at Uppingham School, Clare College, Cambridge, and St Mary's Hospital, London. Following a house appointment at St Mary's he returned to Cambridge in 1936 to become university demonstrator pathology and an official fellow of Gonville and Caius.

Greaves, in spite of heavy teaching duties at Cambridge, rapidly became an expert serologist. So as to preserve diagnostic sera he devised freeze-drying and in 1936 published an important paper on preserving sera by desiccation in the frozen state. This was followed in 1939 by his introduction of mechanically refrigerated condensers and automatic heat control for drying sera on a large scale.

At the beginning of the second world war Greaves was asked by the Medical Research Council to develop and expand his methods so as to provide large amounts of blood plasma for transfusion. He thus became director of the MRC drying unit at Cambridge for processing plasma to be used in treating both service and civilian casualties



during the war. This work proved singularly successful and important. His brilliant technique of high speed vertical spin-drying (published in the *Journal of Hygiene* in 1941) enabled blood plasma to be dried without any pre-freezing, so that freezing became the first stage of the drying process itself. This memorable advance provided the basis for the drying of plasma used for the resuscitation of shocked patients in Britain and in the British armed forces throughout the war. Many victims of enemy action owed their lives to Greaves's process which later received world-wide application and recognition.

After the war Greaves returned to academic work at Cambridge where he became reader in bacteriology. He then developed the important concept that injury to living cells by heat involves the denaturing action of water on proteins. This view he substantiated in a particularly elegant manner by showing that the iso-antibodies to human blood group substances can withstand exposure to 100°C if sufficiently devoid of water; he found that the full activity of these highly specific protein molecules was unimpaired provided that they were completely dry. This fundamental idea was widely extended by Greaves and his collaborators who successfully dried and preserved many

microbes including the most fragile pathogens.

He later showed that the completely dry virus of *herpes simplex* can survive the temperature of boiling water for many hours. His expertise in electronics and physics, unique in a medical scientist, was admired both by physicists and engineers. This knowledge enabled him to design highly efficient apparatus which be fruitfully used to study the effect of cooling on biological systems. His more recently designed method of thermal analysis has been of enormous importance in the freeze-drying of tissues for histological section.

While reader in bacteriology he supervised research students in immunology as well as in bacteriology. His highly original ideas were freely and generously given to his students. Indeed at his suggestion and under his supervision a series of immunological techniques, which have since revolutionised world-wide recognition, were initiated in the department of pathology at Cambridge.

In 1962 Greaves was elected to the professorship of pathology at Cambridge. His tenure of the chair was a particularly happy and significant one. The whole academic and technical staff in the teaching hospital and research laboratories of this very large department regarded him with deep affection. They valued his friendship and counsel as completely as they respected his decisions; he was eminently fair and reasonable and at the same time well endowed with sparkle and wit. His influence was highly catalytic and provided an ideal environment for research which was reflected in the quality of publications emanating from his department.

He leaves his widow, Anne, and a daughter.

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN

Stevie Ray Vaughan, blues guitarist, vocalist and producer, died in a helicopter crash in Wisconsin, USA, on August 27. He was 35.

D.T.'s debut album *Texas Flood* was released on the Epic label.

His most famous LP, *Couldn't Stand the Weather*, came in 1984 and Grammy nominations started to become Grammy awards. That same year the band won the award for best traditional blues recording for a track on *Atlantic Records Anthology Blues Explosion*. Success continued in 1986 with a fifth consecutive gold for the sales of their double concert album *Live Alive*.

Stevie Ray Vaughan's family had a history of alcoholism and he followed his father in this respect. There was a gap of three years during which he had to recover from the ravages of mixing hard drugs with alcohol. Eventually he gave up both and in 1989 Double Trouble released another Grammy winning album *In Step*. The material reflected Vaughan's new found temperance in the songs "Walk of Denial" and "Right-Rope". He recently completed the album *Family Style*, with his brother Jimmie, and a reformed Stevie was to be seen in recording studios or sitting in with local club bands.

He had performed, along with his brother Eric Clapton, at the Alpine Valley Theatre during the hours before his death.



SIR HERBERT MARCHANT

Philip Massen writes:

IN YOUR obituary of Sir Herbert Marchant (August 13) I felt there was not enough emphasis on one of his outstanding qualities. He was a peacemaker who was often able to make peace between emotional factions because he would listen with patience and sympathy to everything they said and because he was so transparently free from any self-seeking.

He had acquired this reputation during the second world war when he was in intelligence at Bleachley and in charge of a difficult team of brilliant individualists. He came, as you said, from 1966 to 1968, as associate director to the Institute of Race Relations while I was director. In spite of having held ambassadorial rank, he was content to play a self-effacing role, holding the fort during my many absences and generously playing his part as a peacemaker and calmer of troubled waters. He was liked by all, always calm, always sympathetic, always cheerful and self-effacing, yet firmly in charge.

charge of a difficult team of brilliant individualists. He

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MICHAEL SNOW

Michael Snow, TD, JP, quantity surveyor and chairman of the Anglo-Jordanian Society since 1980, died aged 58 on August 26. He was born on April 1, 1932.

MICHAEL Snow first went to Jordan in 1957 in connection with the construction of Amman Airport, establishing many friendships amongst the Jordanians. In 1980 he founded the Anglo-Jordanian Society which was established to foster mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries and has

been a source of support to the organisation and its tireless efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Jordan-British Society in Jordan and the Anglo-Jordanian Society in the United Kingdom. In 1988 King Hussein decorated him with the Order of Al Isqat.

In his business life, he was one of the founder partners of Snow Cooper Ashford, quantity surveyors, and a partner in Sir Frederick Snow and Partners, a firm founded by his father. He became chairman

and managing director of Snow Cooper Ashford Ltd in 1989 upon the incorporation of Snow Group plc.

He was born the younger son of Sir Frederick and Lady Rosetta Snow and was the brother of the artist Peter Snow. He was educated at All Saints School, Bloxham, Brixton School of Building and Reading University. During his national service, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps in 1951. He transferred to the Territorial Army in 1952, and was an active and enthusiastic

member of the Royal Army Service Corps.

He leaves his widow, Irene, and two sons.

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It is like

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

When the apostles arrived they prayed for the believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given. They were down on any of them: they were all bound together in one name: the name of Jesus.

Act 2 : 16.16. G.N.B.

BIRTHS

BROWN - On August 16th at 9.14 pm to Richard (late Riches) and Martin, a son. Daniel Riches-Brown.

COLLES - On August 29th to a son, Alexander, a brother for Isabelle.

CHAMBERS - On August 26th to Maria and Sebastian, a son, Alfonso Chad.

EVANS - On August 18th to Emir (late Margaret) and Timothy, a son, Charles James.

FARSON - On 12th August, to Susan (late Barry) and Anthony, a son, Andrew Gordon, a brother for Michael.

HUNT - On August 28th, to Caroline and Alan, a beautiful son, Nicholas Peter, Kira.

JONES - On August 25th to Virginia, Catherine and David, a daughter, Catherine Sarah, sister to Emily.

KELLY - On August 27th, at Northwick Park, Vans Agnew and Mark, Charles Stewart, a brother for Paul.

LAWRENCE - On August 26th to Alice, June Ferguson and Michael, a daughter, Hannah Lorraine.

MADDocks - On August 21st at Queen Charlotte's, London, to Anne, three children, a son, Oliver William, a beloved son of Dorothy and dear father of Christopher, Jonathan and Pamela. Funeral service Thursday, September 6th at St. Mary's Church, Chiswick, W4. Interment later. Flowers if desired to FJ Wilson, Hammersmith.

JEFFREY - On August 30th after a long, courageous battle born, Frank William Clark.

Beloved son of Dorothy and dear father of Christopher, Jonathan and Pamela. Funeral service Thursday, September 6th at St. Mary's Church, Chiswick, W4. Interment later. Flowers if desired to FJ Wilson, Hammersmith.

MCNAUL - On August 21st at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, to Jenny (late Edwards), Richard, a son, James John.

MORRISON - On August 28th to Sam (late Kohlmeier), his wife, a daughter, Barbara.

RANDFENDER - On August 23rd, 1990 to Molini and Soren, a daughter, Anna.

SAFKE - On August 29th to Jane (late Robert) and Henry, a daughter, Laura.

SHELLEY - On August 20th, 1990 at General Hospital, Warrington to Elsie and Christopher, a son Stuart, John. A first grandson to Bridie and Tony. Mervyn and Robert.

SLADE - On August 29th to June (late Harry) and Brian, a son, Stephen.

THOMAS - On August 29th to John (late Eddie) and Barbara, a son, Michael, a daughter, Barbara.

WHITE - On August 29th to

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WILSON - On August 29th to Sam (late Eddie) and Barbara, a son, Michael, a daughter, Barbara.

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Changing Face

Pumping out the water music

DAVID MOXLEY



In the early days after the passing of the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, the listing of a building deemed to be of historic or architectural interest was often seen as an end in itself. Once a building had been given statutory protection everyone could relax, knowing that the demolition men had been thwarted.

But that was, and is, a simplistic view. Unless a building is classed as an ancient monument, which usually means a picturesque ruin, some sort of new use must be found for it.

A discotheque and nightclub might not seem the most desirable new use for a once handsome Victorian building on a tranquil riverside site on the outer fringes of London. In the case of the derelict Enfield pumping station, however, even those who would not from choice go near a discothèque may be pleasantly surprised.

The building is on the banks of the river Lea, on the edge of the Lea Valley regional park. It was completed in about 1889 and supplied water to most of London's East End.

John Gillies, of Henderson Gillies, the architects responsible for the conversion, says the building was probably designed by Metropolitan Water Board engineers following the guidelines of the Arts and Crafts movement. The movement was established by a number of leading Victorian designers, led by William Morris, to improve, among other things, the standards of public architecture.

The movement's success is visible in a whole range of industrial buildings, including this particular pump house. Listed grade 2, it displays a wealth of fine craftsmanship, notably superb panelled ceiling. The ornate brickwork is also remarkable in a building which, considering the purpose for which it was constructed, possesses an almost ecclesiastical grandeur.

The station was bought last year from the then Thames Water Authority for £700,000 by Stephen Webb, chairman of Premier Leisure, an entertainment group based in Dartford, Kent. The company also owns a nightclub, public house and restaurant in Dartford and a public house/restaurant in Southend, Essex.

Mr Webb, a qualified surveyor, describes himself as a conservationist with a strong interest in historic buildings. "We are determined to get it right," he says. "We have the expertise, experience and the finance to translate this determination into practice.

"Discothèques in town centres cause problems, and we have been looking at various sites on the edge of London. This one seemed to meet our needs perfectly."

On a site adjoining the pumping station, formerly occupied by a boiler room and coal yard, an extension is being built for use as a



Planning for a new lease of life: the almost ecclesiastical grandeur of the disused Enfield pumping station will soon be busy with nightclubs.

public house and restaurant. This is intended to complement its historic neighbour and, advised by English Heritage, the company has scoured the country for matching original tiles. New Fleton bricks have had to be used for the walls, but their bright pink complexion will be darkened by a mixture of soot and water to give the appearance of natural weathering. The

new rooms in the original building are being constructed around a steel framework which will avoid drilling into the outside walls and will allow them to be dismantled and removed, if necessary. Most of the building materials for the venture, due to open next month, have been brought to the site by barge along the nearby canal to avoid traffic disruption.

Despite a nearby overhead dual carriageway, the six-acre site has a rustic tranquillity. The tree-lined river winds through what may be the last remaining watermeadows in London, which are to be managed as a nature reserve by the London Wildlife Trust.

As part of the £3.7 million scheme, the river and canal will be dredged and cleaned, and Mr

Webb plans to build a small boatyard. He also hopes to buy a couple of narrowboats, to be renovated by students from the local polytechnic and loaned to artists for use as studios. Other plans include an outdoor classroom on the edge of the watermeadows.

JOHN YOUNG

Playing the game can win friends

Playing bridge unites all types of people in a common quest for that perfect hand of cards

CHESS may make you mad, but bridge players consider themselves only mildly obsessive — a group of women from Brockham, in Surrey, recently declined to attend the funeral of one of their number because it coincided with their regular afternoon's bridge. Taxed on this apparent insouciance towards an old friend, they announced, with some dignity, that they would be playing a silent rubber as a mark of respect. This was what their former playing partner would have wanted.

Not every pensionable amateur would take a similar attitude, but ask any 70-year-old bridge-playing widow, and you will get much the same answer. "I don't know what I would do without it," is a common response. "It keeps me alive," is another. They are not exaggerating. You have only to step into a room of bridge players of a certain age to realise that you are interrupting the equivalent of a seance, or an act of religious worship.

All over Britain, groups of old people, predominantly widows, take it in turns to cook meals for each other, ferry each other from house to house, and play bridge, afternoons and evenings, day after day. Their diaries are full for months ahead.

Then there are the holidays, and woe betide the fifth person who does not play bridge. I caught up with a group of bridge players spending a week with Saga Holidays at the Moat House Hotel in Bournemouth.

An eclectic mix of grand old ladies, men and women with regional accents and very different dress styles, this 36-strong group are united by love of the game.

"It's a great leveller," says Phyllis Hunnerstone, one of the group at



Bridge the social gap: Ralph and Mary Tippler (centre) with John Cook (left) and William Kent

lives in a warden-controlled block of flats in Derby where he is the only bridge-player among the 36 residents. "They are all goggle-box mad there," he says. Each Friday he can turn the communal lounge into a bridge party for his friends.

Bridge is not just an old people's game. As the London School of Bridge emphasises, many more young people are playing it now than ever before. But it is one of those games of which you can truthfully say, "You'll never regret learning it."

I left the Moat House Hotel as the evening session was getting under way. Only the occasional glass of wine had been taken with dinner and there was no drinking or smoking in the bridge room. Bids were being spoken quietly, concentration was absolute. They would probably play till about 11pm, and then a good few might go to the bar. The previous night some had been up until 1am — proof, if proof were needed, that the game keeps you young.

Mr Tippler accompanied me to the front door and observed confidentially: "Lots of people don't know what to do when they come on holiday."

"Look at all those people staring into their half-pints of bitter. Aren't we lucky that we can play bridge?"

RUPERT MORRIS

Help: Amanda Docker, dried flower arranger

Dried off and decked out



Crisply floral: Amanda Docker and a basket of flowers

AMANDA Docker began her business in 1979 in a small way, selling dried flower arrangements to local hotels. Her husband, Fred, a food industry consultant, provided the financial acumen and Mrs Docker the imagination that made her product different from the desiccated offerings of others.

Armscote Manor Dried Flowers thrived, becoming one of the leading companies of its kind in the world, selling its arrangements around Britain through gift shops and retail chains, and finding a market in Macy's in New York and the Port Stanley gift shop in the Falkland Islands. Mrs Docker knew she should be delighted at how the business had grown, but instead felt unfilled. "I missed the personal touch," she says.

The couple began the business to pay for repairs to the roof of their manor house, set in 16 acres of land and walled gardens near Stratford-upon-Avon. The idea was to use home-grown flowers and make the manor self-supporting, but now the business is so big the manor cannot provide enough blooms and they have to be imported from around the world.

Despite her success, Mrs Docker was anxious to get back that satisfying feeling of knowing where her flowers went, and what rooms they were meant for. "I want to try to build up an exclusive interior design service, and start doing weddings and parties," she says.

While working on the photographs for her book, *Armscote Manor Book of Dried Flowers*, she and Simon Lyett, the flower arranger, decked the drawing-rooms, kitchens and garden sheds of her friends' country houses with mossy swings and daisy trees, rustic bunches in buckets, garlanded baskets of dried herbs for kitchens and arrangements of shells and bits of loofah for bathrooms. Garlands were designed for a winter wedding, and a

church was festooned with warm-looking dried flowers, although Mrs Docker acknowledges there is instinctive resistance to dried flowers at a wedding.

Following the enthusiasm with which her efforts and the book were received, Mrs Docker determined to make this service available to all.

"You can do some lovely things, such as using dried flowers as curtain tie-backs with material worked into them, or twined around mirrors, or on top of kitchen containers and pasta jars. And you can hang swags and garlands on walls and over mirrors," she says.

"It would be a bit over the top to have them everywhere, but pelmets of dried flowers are lovely, and filling in the dusty gaps at the tops of cabinets, as we have done in our drawing-room, is a nice idea."

Formal arrangements are definitely passé, she tells clients. Natural shapes and bold colours are fashionable, as are simple ideas such as a twisted wheatsheaf with a paper bow.

Consultations are free within a reasonable distance, and potential clients do not have to live in

stately homes. "We would do quite ordinary houses, maybe a single room, or perhaps something for a special party," she says. If this side of the business takes off, she might hire out some of the large dried flower trees which she makes for charity events.

She also makes Christmas trees: pungent dried yew and spruce and dark green kumquat woven with pine-cones and plaid ribbons. They come in all sizes, from table miniatures to large enough to substitute for the real thing. Christmas greenery might include wreaths and garlands with nuts and fresh fruits, or dried orange trees with real oranges.

Dried flowers are sold individually or arranged at the manor shop. "I'm sure now it was an advantage not to have been formally trained," Mrs Docker says. "If you don't know the rules of dried flower arranging, you have no inhibitions about breaking them."

VICTORIA MCKEE

● Armscote Manor Dried Flowers, Armscote, near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (0928 82681); Armscote Manor Book of Dried Flowers (Century Hutchinson, £16.95).

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

- The Casablanca experience: themed event with fakirs, acrobats, Moroccan food. The film starts at 8.30pm. Dress in appropriate costume. Kempton, Hampstead Lane, London, NW3 (071-379 4444). Today from 6pm, £5-£7.40, child £3.50-£5.

- Country fair in town: farm animals, craft market, horsebusts, donkey rides, children's fairground. College Farm, Fitzalan Road, London, N3. Tomorrow 1-6pm, £5.50, child £2.50.

- Osterley Fireworks Classics: Wren Symphony Orchestra play Brahms, Borodin, Tchaikovsky and Dvorák. Refreshments, licensed bar. Take chair, rug or cushion. Osterley Park, Isleworth, Middlesex (081-560 3918). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, gates open 6pm, £8.50.

- Storytelling at Kensington Palace: "I wish I had" — for 5-7 year-olds and parents. Education centre, Kensington Palace state apartments, Kensington Gardens, London W8 (071 937 9561). Tomorrow 2-4pm, 50p. State apartments, E3.50, child £2.30.

- City of Nottingham show: flowers, fruit and vegetables, shire horses, arena events, children's funfairs, refreshments. Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Tomorrow 10am-5pm.

- Annual steam weekend: rally of traction steam, stationary engines, models, motor cycles, fairground organs. The Boat Museum, Dockyard Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire (051 355 5017). Today, tomorrow daytime, small charge.

- Huddersfield Heritage Fair: maps, books, postcards and prints, town history, screen-printing demonstration, book-binding advice, folk dancing, mock Viking battles.

- Historic Vehicle Rally: vintage and veteran cars, bicycles and commercial vehicles in the grounds. Also motor museum, children's play and picnic areas. Refreshments.

- Great British Quilt Festival: embroidery exhibition, stalls, demonstrations, classes and workshops.

- Historic Vehicle Rally: vintage and veteran cars, bicycles and commercial vehicles in the grounds. Also motor museum, children's play and picnic areas. Refreshments.

- Holker Hall, Cark-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria

(05395 58328). Tomorrow, 10am-4.30pm. Small admission charge.

- Combined Services Weekend: 2 days of entertainments and activities by the army, navy and air force. The Magical Kingdom of Camelot, Park Hall Road, Charnock Richard, Lancashire (0275 453044). Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Admission £6.95, children 4-14 £4.95, toddlers free.

- Victorian Archery Shoot: display of traditional round shot by archers in Victorian costumes. Spectators may take part. Springfield, Moneyne, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland (01487 48210). Tomorrow, 3pm.

- Cromwell Day Service: annual event organised by the Cromwell Association to pay tribute to the statesman with hymns, the last post, address and reveille. Spectators welcome. Oliver Cromwell's statue, Cromwell Green, London SW1. Monday, 3pm.

- City of London flower show: Lord Mayor to open show of flowers, fruit, vegetables, handicrafts, produce — from jams to wine.

- The Great Hall, Guildhall, Gresham Street, London, EC1. Tuesday 12noon-7pm, Wednesday 9am-12noon, 2-4pm.

- Cromwell Day Service: annual event organised by the Cromwell Association to pay tribute to the statesman with hymns, the last post, address and reveille. Spectators welcome. Oliver Cromwell's statue, Cromwell Green, London SW1. Monday, 3pm.

- Images of the London blitz: war artist Leonard Roseman OBE opens exhibition of war photographs by Bill Brandt. Hard Cross Roads. Also, audio-visual presentation. Second World War Gallery, Museum of London, London Wall, London, EC2 (071 600 3699). Tuesday until May 1991, free.

- Great British Quilt Festival: embroidery exhibition, stalls, demonstrations, classes and workshops.

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WEEKEND LIVING: OUT OF TOWN

Farmers' diary: Paul Heiney

Swooping success of Flash cordon



I HAVE reduced the unemployment figures by one, and he is not pleased. At least, that is the impression he gives. Despite enforced idleness staring him in the face, he does not appear to be the slightest bit grateful.

He is called Flash; a border collie with a determined and experienced approach to the sweaty and frustrating business of moving sheep. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, neither I nor any other man can hope to match a sheep in speed or cunning. Only a sheepdog can, and that is why Flash is now part of the growing menagerie on our farm.

Word soon got around that I was looking for a dog, and a telephone call from a Norfolk shepherd told the tale of a 1,000-acre farm that was to be converted into a golf course, with its flock of 2,000 ewes being sold. They call it diversification; I call it vandalism. Those of us with precious few acres find it galling that others can fit aside huge tracts of land. As I arrived at the shepherd's cottage, I could see from the gleam expressions on both their faces that Flash and his master shared my view. Both had been given the boot. At

his master's command, Flash came storming out of his kennel and immediately took a neat fold of flesh from behind my knee and pressed it between his teeth, hard. It was not meant to be affectionate. If this was going to be an enduring relationship between one man and his dog, it could have got off to a more promising start.

The three of us drove in an old Land-Rover down winding tracks and through aged woodland (due to be flattened to make a "green") until we came to watermeadow (due to be drained to make another "green"). A thousand sheep were grazing idly, until Flash leapt out of the car and crouched in that tensed, concentrated pose that is the hallmark of the trained sheepdog. He was bursting with desire to bring each and every sheep to his master's feet; but he had been given no word of command and would not budge until it had been given.

"Come by!" He stormed to the left, keeping far enough from the sheep to not cause any panic. Slowly they edged together as he moved up on them. Another command had him falling to the ground, frozen until yet another brought him on to his feet. He was a cracking dog, as Phil Drabble might say. Money changed hands (quite a lot of it, as a trained dog is a valuable animal) and with a hint of reluctance, Flash slid into my car and we made our way home.

That was last Saturday. It was Wednesday before I got anywhere near him again. I tried the soft approach, with lots of cooing and "good boy, good boy", but the bewildered Flash just stuck into the corner of his kennel, bared his teeth, snarled, and refused to budge. I can't blame him. For all he knew, I might have been a golf course developer.

Then a neighbour, who is a shepherd, had a bright idea. He brought his collie Tess, a bitch who is anybody's for a cuddle and a Bonio biscuit, and put her in with Flash. The change was dramatic. It was as if an imprisoned man found his jail had been turned into a haven. Now I could boldly venture into the kennel for a pat and cuddle of Tess — and within a day Flash was wanting attention, too. By Friday he was licking my hand. I call that pampered poodles in the world.

As I looked at Flash, hoping that

he and I would forge that unique bond that exists between shepherd and sheep dog, my mind recalled the lessons of years ago: "Come by!" to send him to the left. "Awaa... y..." to move him to the right. "Look back!" if he had left any sheep behind. His ears pricked up, his head leaned to one side and I saw in his eyes a look of willingness, and, I fondly thought, a hint of devotion.

Then, for a joke, I said to Flash: "Golf course!" He snarled. I think we are going to get on just fine.

JOHN PAUL

Novel view of a Scottish hideaway

Home from home: Barbara Cartland

Barbara Cartland calls her Highland hideaway a "proper sporting lodge". It is five miles up the Strath of Kildonan from the Sutherland town of Helmsdale. Other people might call Kilphedir Lodge a bungalow. This is not a description which finds favour with Miss Cartland.

She has decamped to the Strath of Kildonan, 600 miles from her Hertfordshire home, Camfield Place, almost every summer since 1927, the year she was whisked north by her first husband, Alexander McCorquodale, to visit his Uncle Harold at Saluscragge, just down the Strath. That marriage was "not successful," she recalls, but she married his first cousin, Hugh, and thus kept the name McCorquodale, and a place in Scotland for the annual family migration to fish 20 miles of the Helmsdale and clamber over 13,000 acres of hideously steep hills in pursuit of grouse and stag.

"Well, it is my second home, don't you see? I've been coming here for 63 years, after all, and of course we lived here with the boys for part of the war, and I absolutely love it, and the boys love it and, of course, I've used all this lovely countryside as settings for my novels, especially Dumurro Castle, which is my favourite."

The McCorquodales bought old Saluscragge at the turn of the century. "It was absolutely enormous, you know; terribly grand, with an enormous dining-room and study and everything, and a butler and two footmen and servants, and, you know, it was so enormous that when the family decided to demolish it after the war, the staircase was sold for £5,000. Can you imagine? £5,000 in those days."

The McCorquodales moved up-

river into Kilphedir Lodge, from which they sorted to the hills and the river every year until 1984 when the lodge was burnt to the ground at Hogmanay. Miss Cartland is under no illusions why. "They decided to burn out the absentee landlords up the river, and we were the first ones."

The new lodge was finished in 1985, on the site of the old one.

The fire was rather a blessing in disguise; all that dark wood and bathrooms miles away. What you want is lots of rooms: loos and bathrooms and lots of hot water, and there's this lovely kitchen with everything you could want and Nigel, [her chef] makes all these delicious things for tea and he's terribly good at meringues."

The lodge, a rough-cast L-shape with aluminium-framed double glazing, sleeps ten in centrally heated comfort. Consequently, Miss Cartland, aged 89, makes no concessions to the Highlands weather; welcoming guests in glittering layers of turquoise organza.

Kilphedir is owned by three strands of the McCorquodale family, who appear throughout the year for whatever is on the sporting menu. The decor, by Lady Sarah McCorquodale, sister of the Princess of Wales, is what used to be called "Peter Jonesy" — eggshell white walls, paintings by family and friends, flower and sporting prints and sensible loose covers with enough pattern to disguise coffee stains, cigarette burns and elbowed drama, although she may be regretting the choice of a pale carpet.

The drawing-room looks down the Strath, a view which even the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board has been unable to ruin with half a dozen pylons. The dining-room, with views of the hill across the Helmsdale and the



Impression: Miss Cartland says of the lodge: "I absolutely love it, the boys love it, and I've used all this lovely countryside as settings for my novels."

occasional Scootrait Sprinter from Wick to Inverness, seats ten in comfort, 14 at a push.

Miss Cartland has come to Kilphedir this year with her eldest son, Ian, his family and friends, Nigel, the chef and Ron the chauffeur. She is looked after, as every year, by Annie from Helmsdale, whose husband provides her with fresh fish. "Marvellous lobsters last night; white fish tonight," Miss Cartland enthuses.

Like all women whose menfolk insist on sporting holidays in the north of Scotland, Miss Cartland's role is that of *chef de commisariat* and that is how she likes it. "Well, you see, what men want here is lots of sport and food. They walk all day, far enough to kill any normal person, all the way across a hill and then turn right and come back again and, don't you see,

what they want is hot baths and lots of good food." What she calls "a sporting lunch" may consist of salmon fishcakes, cold meat (especially tongue) wrapped in lettuce with beetroot and grated carrots. But no sporting lunch of Miss Cartland's is complete without her *spécialité de la montagne* — the bacon-and-egg ba

In a past, Miss Cartland would take to the hills herself, latterly on a rather bad-tempered pony which tended to throw her. She disapproves of women stalking and shooting, but has no reservations about women fishing. She caught her first salmon of 14lb on her first visit to Kildonan. These days her sporting expeditions are confined to delivering lunch to those who are fishing at the top of the river, whether she is conveyed by Ron in

the white Mercedes with Mai Mai the Pekingese on her lap.

Alternatively, there are calls to be made in Helmsdale, a port built by the Dukes of Sutherland. No Cardland visit there is complete without looking in on Timespan,

the local heritage centre which includes the Barbara Cartland Room, a mocked-up drawing-room complete with a bouffant-haired model of herself aged 18, in a pink sequinned evening dress.

On this particular afternoon the shooting and fishing parties arrive back for tea just in time to see Nigel the chef and Ron the chauffeur clearing it all away. It is reinstated, and dispensed by Miss Cartland with the speed of the WRVS in the Blitz.

That evening, after supper, would be the awarding of the Kilphedir sporting trophies by Ian

McCorquodale, resplendent in McCorquodale tartan trews, a tartan Miss Cartland had paid £19 to the Lord Lyon King at Arms to have taken out of abeyance.

"Well, you see, whoever's done

fruitfully well, caught the most

fish or shot well, is given the

sportsman's cup of the day, and

whoever has done rather badly,

got into terrible trouble with their

dog or done something silly, gets

the sod of the day cup. I'm not

sure you should put that in the paper. Oh, well . . ."

The day had been good. The

men were happy with 34 brace, the

anglers were happy with 15 fish, and Miss Cartland was happy because that was the way it should always be at Kilphedir.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

(Times Newspapers Ltd 1990)

Feather report

Sipping beer, eyeing birds

I DO NOT know quite how to put this. It really is embarrassing. But you see, I have just seen a rare bird. I was told it was at Hayle estuary in Cornwall; I went to Hayle estuary; somebody showed me where it was; I looked through my binoculars and saw it.

The bird was lovely, so it was not quite the empty experience it sounds. It was a little egret, a small and delicate white heron with garish yellow feet. The feet are diagnostic: by their feet ye shall know them.

A pair of little egrets have been hanging about Hayle estuary for a couple of months and at the beginning of the week they were still there. A Wilson's phalarope has just dropped in, and that brought in the twitchers.

I am embarrassed by rare birds. Not just because the conservation side of things is what matters, it is also that, so far as the pure shikari side of birding goes, chance-found birds are far more satisfying. Set-piece birding is still very enjoyable: you go to a birdy place, a reserve or whatever, and you probably meet birders and exchange the traditional greeting, "Much about?" However, birding should not just be a special occasion, it should be part of everyday life.

Back to Cornwall, and a favourite walk of mine along the coast path from Rinsey to Porthleven, not, at this time of year, a brilliant walk for birds. An important rule of life is to carry binoculars everywhere. I had some nice views of a lot of common birds: stonechat, buzzard, oystercatcher, fulmar, kestrel, linnet, a pair of wheatear. But the biggest treat was a couple of merlin, a small falcon that practically all the field guides describe as "dastardly". Without



Robin Jacques

binoculars, it would have been: "well, I suppose it was really a heron, but it does not look like one." With them, the shape, oddly dumpy than the bigger falcons, was perfectly plain; there was no other diagnosis, and there were the two birds, swooping and dashing all over the place, birds to rei

I take binoculars with me when I have a beer in the garden, just to enjoy the common birds: birding is a part of daily life. In May, the

cast a benevolent eye over them and, as I was doing so, I saw something like the wrath of God. A demon shaped like an anchor or the letter 'J' dropped from heaven, plucked a martin from the air, and vanished from sight. It took about 0.75 seconds. Hobby. Another falcon. Another memorable sighting, another aspect of birds as part of everyday life. This brings me back to my embarrassing egrets at Hayle. Hayle really is a marvellous place for birds. It is nationally important for curlew, teal and wigeon. There were 200 or so curlew last week, as magnificent as any egret. Hayle attracts important birds in big numbers, and spares this with many rare birds. The warden, Dave Flamm, has seen all five British grebes at once (great crested, little, red-necked, black-necked and Slavonian). However, far more exciting than the egrets was the knowledge that Hayle, which had looked like going under to developers, now looks like being saved. Peter de Savary, the America's Cup man, is the developer. Long consultations with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds seem to have guaranteed the future of this special place. It might even be improved. Mr de Savary has undertaken to reintroduce the sluicing of the harbour. Without this, the place would silt up and be useless for birds within 20 years. All in all, this is a rare and splendid thing, a happy conservation story, one that reflects credit on developer and conservationists.

I still feel dreadfully uncomfortable about those egrets, but at least I missed the Wilson's phalarope. Thank the Lord for that.

SIMON BARNES

Theatre Set Up's touring outdoor

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

• Chatsworth country fair and British pipe band championships: Two-day event with all country pursuits and sports, plus military bands, jousting, flying, demonstrations with birds of prey, hot air balloons. Today only, 100 pipe bands in competition.

Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire. Today, tomorrow 9.15am-6pm, £5, child 1-12 free.

• Cuckoo regatta: Eighty river races, vintage and Dunkirk boats, aerobatic and dog displays.

Marton Meadow, Cookham, Berkshire. Today 10am-6pm, £2.50, child £1.50.

• Riddledean regatta: Elizabethan music and dance displays, period children's games, craft demonstrations.

East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley, West Yorkshire. 0535 807075. Tomorrow noon-5pm, £1.90, child 90p.

• Southwest of England town Crier's championships: Heats today at the Water Garden; grand parade and finals tomorrow at the Hotel Victoria.

Newquay, Cornwall. Today, tomorrow from 2.30pm, free.

• RAF show: Today, Falcons tree-top parachute team, Red Arrows. Tomorrow, a Spitfire demonstration. Both days, static displays and flight simulator.

Western Lawns, Eastbourne. Today, tomorrow mid-morning to late afternoon.

• Firework spectacular: Pyrotechnics and fringe entertainers.

The Vyne, Sherborne St John, Hampshire. 0256 881337. Today 8pm, £2.20, child £1.20.

• Teddy bears' picnic: Minstrels, jugglers and hog roast.

Tristick Garden, Flook, near Truro, Cornwall. 0872 662050. Tomorrow 2.30pm.

• All's Well that Ends Well:

Theatre Set Up's touring outdoor

production. Take rug.

Scone Castle Garden, Fife, Scotland. Today 2pm and 7.30pm, £3.50-£5.50.

• Late summer steamday: Visit the engine shed, see the locomotives, ride trams.

Ditton Railway Centre, Oxfordshire. 0235 817200. Tomorrow 11am-5pm, £3, child 12-12s must be accompanied by an adult.

NEXT WEEK

• Festival of British light horse breeding and the Ford national hunt show: Six hundred entries in the hunter show on Monday, followed by sale of young horses.

Three Counties Society Showground, Malvern. Tues. and ridden horses: Wed., ridden horses all breeds; Thurs., young horses all breeds.

• Tapestry talk: Connoisseurs afternoon with expert Sally Rutherford.

Anglesbury Abbey, Lode, Cambridge. 0223 811200. Tues 2-4pm, £3.50 including cream tea.

• Scarborough gala concert: Four 150th anniversary concerts with period music by Sullivan, Lena, Novello, Coward, Hammerstein, Lloyd Webber.

Spa Grand Hall, South Bay, Scarborough. This Wed and following Weds in September. 7.45pm. Booking and further information 0723 376774.

Open-air operetta: Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*. Take

picnic, chair or rug.

Coleton Fishacre Garden, Coleton Kingswear, Devon. 080425 465. Thurs, Fri, Sat. Garden open from 7pm, performances 7.45pm, 26 in

Assets

Modern designers take to the road

Finding shops that sell quality contemporary furniture and furnishings outside London's design-conscious强强联手 is a problem. This could change, however, if Jane Foley's travelling roadshow of new work by British designer-makers is successful.

Ms Foley, who owned the Conroy-Foley Gallery in Norwich for a number of years, is closing the gallery to concentrate on her roadshows.

"I want to present British design in a way that is not highbrow," she says. "The trouble with many galleries is that they are off-putting to anyone who just wants to browse."

"I want to bring design out of the clouds and to show that these pieces are affordable and clever. People may not go for everything I show — some pieces are over-the-top — but perhaps they will find them stimulating and there will be something they do like."

Her first show took place recently in London. She is planning

a further splash in Manchester before Christmas and another next year in Dublin, which will include as many Irish designer-makers as possible.

The shows are geared primarily to shoppers and passers-by in parts of the country where good modern design is not always available. The first show resulted in numerous commissions for larger pieces of furniture. Although it also included jewellery and fashion, future events will focus on contemporary furniture in all media, textiles, wall-hangings, ceramics and sculpture.

Ms Foley funded the first show herself, but hopes to attract sponsorship and so avoid charging the designers for their display space.

Until the Foley roadshow becomes a regular event, you may find what you want at one of the shops listed below which all focus on the best of British and European modern design.

NICOLE SWENGLY



What's new and on view: Jane Foley with some of her roadshow exhibits by contemporary designers — bath by Jon Mills, felt hanging by Annie Sherburne, marble statue by Nick Dean

BEST OF THE MODERN AROUND THE COUNTRY

• Artekta, 124 Queens Road, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 770764). Classic furniture includes the Corbusier chaise, reproduction Mackintosh chairs, and Philippe Starck. Full range of Alessi's new woodware, Alvar Aalto glassware, David Mellor cutlery, Czech & Speake bathroom fittings, accessories by Paul Smith. Adventurous pieces include handmade clocks by Artekta.

• Arizana, The Gallery, Presbury, Cheshire (0625 827582). Good choice of contemporary British furniture by designers including John Makepeace, Alan Peters, Rupert Williamson, Tony Issayagh, Toby Wimberingham, Fred Baker and Nigel Lofthouse. A craft gallery alongside the shop stocks ceramics, wood, glass, paintings, textiles and jewellery, all by British designer-makers.

• The Ballys, 73 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire (0926 254223). Contemporary furniture from Italy and Scandinavia and traditional English classics. Modern lighting, china, glass, fashion.

• Bath Interiors, 605 Bedford Street, Belfast (0232 254311). Furniture from Italy by Zanotta and B & B Italia, from Germany by Interku, from Spain by Distorn, from France by Ligne Roset. Fred Bettmann and Klemmer lighting by Artemide and Lumina.

• Bristol Guild of Applied Art, 66-70 Park Street, Bristol (0272 265548). Eclectic mix of crafts, gifts, china, glass, toiletries, furniture, fabrics, jewellery and fashion. Antiques furniture and modern designs from Denmark, Italy and Sweden.

• Daniel Galleria, Rodden Row, Abbottshury, Weymouth, Dorset (0305 871515). Contemporary British woodwork by more than 100 wood-turners, including Ray Kee and Mike Scott, and designer-makers who specialise in wood. Accessories for kitchens, desks, living-rooms, carved animals and hand-made toys, plus furniture.

• Geoffrey Drayton, 104 High Street, Epping, Essex (0378 73929). British upholstery and the latest designs from Italy and Germany. Cassina, Matteo Grassi and Interku are featured along with Kitchenware by Le Creuset and Ede. Lighting and fabrics are also available.

• Haus, 7 Angel Row, Nottingham (0602 414777). British and European modern classics and one-off furniture, traditional and contemporary sofas, lighting, ceramics, fabrics, glassware and kitchenware. Fabrics include Jim Thompson and Timmy Fowler and Haus's own range of silks, chintzes and Indian cottons. Jewellery, glassware, clocks, Alessi kitchenware, stationery, bed linen and baskets. The basement is being developed as a gallery-style area for paintings, furniture and

sculpture, one-off pieces of jewellery and accessories focusing on work by local designers. These include Cathy Parker's decorative metal screens, bases and sculptural framed mirrors and Jennifer Edwards's baroque-style metal furniture.

• Indesign, 38 Watergate Street, Chester (0244 29459). Hand-made wooden furniture. Some European designs, including Ligne Roset, are also available.

• Inhouse, 28 Howe Street, Edinburgh (031 225 2888) and 24-26 Wilson Street, Glasgow (041 552 5902). Contemporary furniture from the Italian companies, Oradea and Cassina, and pieces by stars such as Philippe Starck, Borek Sipek, Georg Pehn, and British designers Matthew Hilton and Jasper Morrison. Lighting by Flos, Artefice, and the Spanish company, B-Lux, which specialises in polished aluminium pieces.

• Lighthouse, 34 Eldon Garden, Newcastle upon Tyne (091 261 6263). Specialises in modern lighting. Most comes from Italy and France with a small selection from the UK. Artemide, Flos and Artefice feature predominantly but the shop also imports an exclusive selection from Sergio Terzani. One of three

outlets in Britain which sells British-made furniture by John Anderson Design, available to order, along with modern Italian furniture from Cassina and Alivar.

• Mimi Seldens, 106 Derby Road, Nottingham (0602 419833). Italian and Dutch furniture feature strongly along with lighting by Flos, Ingo Maurer, Artemide and Antemida, and figurines by British designer Matthew Hilton. Hand-made rugs from Belgium and limited edition prints by artists such as Bruce McLean and Victor Pasmore.

• Tony Walker Interiors, 14 Telford Road, Edinburgh (031 349 6151) and 64 St George's Road, Charing Cross, Glasgow (041 332 2862). Upholstery from Italy and Ambra Fabrics. Carpets from the Dutch company Weston can be cut up to 5m wide and seamless. The British company, Merino, also supplies fabrics to Trend in any colour and width to a given width. Lighting from Flos, O'Luce, Artemide and Artefice.

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English Ceramics and Sculpture to be given by Dr. Christopher Tipping, 30th September at City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent. Admission Free by ticket only. Tickets available from venues with S.A.E.

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5th - 8th September 1990

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Cabinets full of curiosities

A mysterious piece of furniture brings back memories of a great-grandfather's hobby

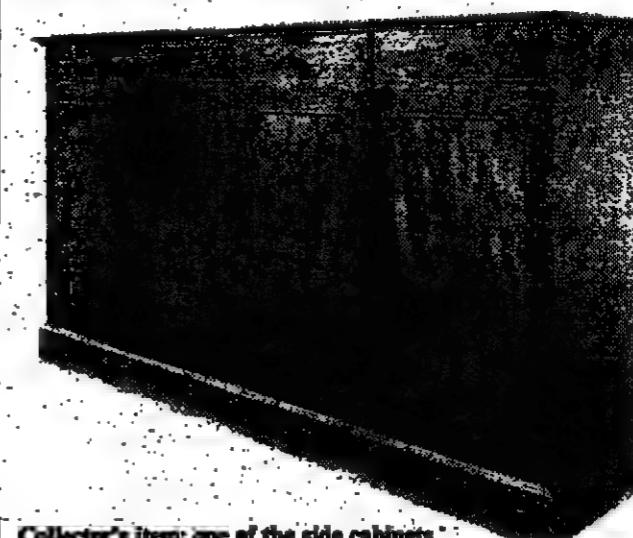
AMONG more than 1,500 lots auctioned by Christie's from the contents of Great Tew Park, Oxford, in May 1987, were two pieces of furniture. They were described as George III mahogany side cabinets, each with two pairs of doors incorporating false drawers as their upper sections, and enclosing actual drawers. They measured approximately 92in long, 50in high, 20in deep, and between them they took £7,040.

No suggestion was made in the catalogue as to what their function might have been, or which part of George's 60-year reign might have given birth to them. However, their provenance was given as "Soho House", seat of Matthew Boulton, the great engineer, who was James Watt's partner in the development of the steam engine. Boulton died in 1809, and his furniture might well have been made 20 or 30 years earlier.

As it happened, I was brought up with a smaller version of these cabinets and knew what their purpose was. Ours had the same two pairs of doors, with infold centre panels and three real drawers above them. Inside was a similar arrangement of graduated drawers ranging from about 23in to 34in high.

This cabinet had belonged to my great-grandfather, James Walker Oxley, a banker, railway owner, pioneer photographer-printer and like Boulton, a collector of works of art. He was born in the 1820s and, on the evidence of the contents of his

HUON MALLALIEU



Collector's item: one of the side cabinets

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Originals: Sally Goymer, basket maker

Weaving a life together

SALLY GOYMER was a housewife and mother until she became a basket maker and the queen of her craft. "I was looking for something to do and walking around the London College of Furniture, unable to make my mind up. Then I walked into a room where people were making baskets and I knew that was it," says the chairwoman of the Craftsmen of Gloucestershire.

However, Mrs Goymer found that there are no apprenticeships or full-time courses in England. Then, at a weekend course run by the Basket Makers' Association, she heard about the French National School of Basketry at Langres, near Dijon.

She applied, and at short notice handed over the running of the home to her astonished husband, left the skirts she was making her teenaged daughters unbemmmed on the sewing machine, and decamped to France.

Her attempts to obtain a scholarship or sponsorship were unsuccessful but an anonymous donor paid tuition fees of £3,000. "I suppose I spent £2,000 of my own on living costs. The great thing was I was taught very thoroughly. In France, once you've learned how to do something, you do it another ten times just to make sure. The drawback is that repetition does stifle creativity."

Mrs Goymer had never been abroad and spent the next nine months sleeping in a "cell". The only furniture was an iron bed, a wash-hand basin and a coffin-like cupboard for her clothes and any view from one small window was beyond even her height of 5ft 5in. First she burst into tears, then she bought a metal plate, cutlery and a primus stove... so she could cook on the floor. Then, telling herself how lucky she was, she got down to learn.

Her biggest adjustment was learning to work sitting down rather than standing up. "I found, eventually, that gripping work between my knees or feet was as good as having an extra pair of hands. Basket making is all about control rather than strength."

Probably the only professional basket maker in Britain to have



stayed the course, her knowledge and skills are so sought after that she is frequently invited abroad. Last year she was one of the British contingent at a top level trade fair in Oman. "There was I, in the middle of all these Rolls-Royce engines and desalination plants, making baskets," she says. She recently returned from France after studying the methods of a basket-making co-operative village near Tours. Soon she is off to Germany, and later the US.

At her Cheltenham home, rusty bolts of black, brown and buff willow stand waiting to be soaked and worked; after a couple of hours in a tank where they are laid overnight between plastic sacking. All manner of basket hang from the rafters and cover the floor of the garage where she works. A huge gnawed dog basket demands emergency repairs — although she does not make a habit of doing these — while a neat stack of 20 baskets ready for dispatch are her solution to a problem posed by Marlborough College.

"They wanted baskets to use to drain test tubes," she explains. "Plastic was no good because they are put in an oven to dry." Basket making, happily side by side with sculpture, probably the oldest craft of all, taking precedence even over pottery, Mrs Goymer maintains. "After all, the very first pots had to be held in place while they were fired: the twigs around them would have just burnt away."

SANDY BISP

Sue Gabriel, of a book, *The Complete Book of Basketry Techniques, to be published by David and Charles after Christmas. This week she will be teaching at a Buckinghamshire course organised by the Basket Makers' Association, and on every first and third Saturday in the month Mrs Goymer is available at the Cirencester Craft Market. More information is available from 01243 510724, or from the secretary of the Basket Makers' Association on 0261 891340.*

J.P.N. (cont'd.)

FUNDING

Behind every genius . . .

Private patronage of the arts has a long history and perhaps an equally important future, argues Richard Morrison. Below, four present-day patrons explain their motivations

If there is no such thing as a free lunch, there may also be no such thing as a free artist. The history of Western culture could easily be written entirely in terms of "free lunches", if that phrase is taken to mean the private patronage that has given painters, writers, composers and performers access to such unartistic necessities as food, clothes and a roof over their heads.

Private patronage pre-dates state subsidy by many centuries, though in the case of the Renaissance princes who employed vast artistic retinues, it is hard to define where private wealth stopped and state subsidy began. Artists have, on the whole, not acted entirely admirably in their dealings with patrons. Some have been merely incredulous at how easily a rich, stage-struck fool and his money were parted. As Irving Berlin famously put it:

*Angels come from everywhere with lots of jack
And when you lose it, there's no attack:
Where could you get money that you don't
give back?*

Others have exploited infatuated patrons with unscrupulous ruthlessness. Wagner financed a lavish life style, as well as his grandiose operatic plans, from the purses of rich, awestruck men and women — one of them the King of Bavaria. His idea of showing gratitude might then be to run off with his patron's wife.

Why do patrons give money to these often difficult, ungracious artists? Power and status are important considerations. Prince Esterházy's standing in the Hapsburg empire was bolstered because he "owned" Haydn, the most

famous composer in 18th-century Europe. Financing a particular artistic project may also send a signal to the patron's peers and rivals: it is a public statement of the patron's philosophy and taste. The Texan electronics billionaire Ross Perot donated \$12 million towards Dallas's new concert hall, on condition that it was named not after him, but after his junior partner: "to send a message to corporate America that people who get to where they are often do so on the backs of their colleagues."

In some famous instances, artistic patronage undoubtedly carried a whiff of sublimated sexual urge. Nadezhda von Meck's infatuation with young composers proved lucrative for Tchaikovsky; less well known is the fact that the lady later employed Debussy in her own private, travelling piano trio.

More often, however, the motivation lies in the acquisition of reflected glory. The urge to achieve a kind of immortality — to leave a permanent trace of one's presence in the world — is no less strong in non-artists than in artists.

A person may not have the creative force within himself to fashion a lasting masterpiece, but wealth can purchase a seat very near the centre of the creative process. Hunches can be backed; great careers can be watched with a sense of proprietorial pride.

In Britain the private patron has been a shadowy figure, despite the enormous contributions to London's cultural life from individuals and trusts bearing such names as Getty, Sainsbury and Lyons. The patron is regarded as peripheral to the central thrust of arts subsidy which, since 1945, has been

perceived as the duty of corporate bodies: the state, the BBC, big business. The American experience is different. Private patrons are the crucial prop that supports all serious arts, the more so since the National Endowment for the Arts has come under attack.

But last year Peter Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman, appealed to British individuals who had done well out of the Thatcher decade to "give something back" to the community by backing arts organisations. Was this a naive plea from a man who believes that other rich individuals should be as tirelessly enthusiastic about the arts as he is? Or was it a realistic appraisal of a considerable source of potential revenue, waiting for any arts organisation with the gumption to knock on the doors of the right castles and mansions?

The Times asked four individuals who already plough considerable sums into the arts about their motivation. Unsurprisingly, none mentioned the "paying a debt to society" aspect. Rather, the modern arts patron emerges as a fierce individualist, fanatical about one or more art-forms, happiest when backing a talent on whom or instinct, unmolested by having to be accountable to any committee or board.

Whereas in America individuals often make donations on a community basis, "clubbing together" on gigantic projects, British patronage is more random, more eccentric, less predictable and much less malleable. These are not individuals, generally, who would meekly consent to plug the holes left between state and corporate funding. They usually want to do it their way.

foundation could be very successful in terms of its own art collection."

While believing the government is not doing enough to encourage private support for the arts, McColl wants to see more people involved in sponsorship. He is hoping "to use the foundation as a pumping mechanism for others to invest in the arts as well. By today's standards, we're not very rich and there is a reasonable percentage of people who could well afford to do something similar to what we're doing." He believes that his foundation has an important role in acting as a sponsorship catalyst, because "individual artists do not necessarily have the time or skills to approach businesses for support."

DEBRA CRAINE

says the scheme came about because he and Jacqueline "can remember how difficult it was as students ourselves to travel and experience other cultures".

Under the terms of the McColl sponsorship, art will generate more art. "We are looking for our students to put into the arts foundation a piece of work or a score, a sculpture, a dance programme — to build up the foundation's own collection." The idea is to sell some of the works and perform others before a paying audience, ploughing the profits back into the foundation. "If we pick our students correctly and hold on to the right works, the



Mirrors reveal a cracked mask

THEATRE

After Their Loving Man In The Moon

FLYNNIE, if met at a party, would appear to be a fading good-time girl: brittle, superficial, loud and drunk, pretty if seen in the right light — while her make-up was fresh, and her smiling mask was still held in place. Stephen James has tracked her down to her dressing room, and has invited us to watch, simultaneously, that mask being applied, and the process of disintegration continuing underneath, as she prepares for the conquest of an old flame. It may be an invitation to

THEATRE

The True Story of Ah Q Solo Poly

CHRISTOPH Hein is big news in East Germany. Excerpts from his novels fill two pages in the programme for this tedious and unfocused play, but they do not make one eager to read any more.

His play is based on a novella by a certain Lu Hsun. Excerpts from the novella, which are also included in the programme, make the reader even more disinclined to become further acquainted with Hein, the fooling anarchist sleep-

sympathise with her predicament, but James is scrupulous in withholding full sympathy until the moment when Flynnie begins to sympathise with herself. Most of the two hours in her company is spent watching a bitter comedy of self-deception.

Victoria Carling's performance is a triumph of modulation, showing the public face as well as the memories, desires, anger and despair which undermine it. Flynnie is married to a husband whose main talent is for making himself scarce even when physically present. Her hopes are centred on Saul, a university acquaintance with whom she once spent several hours on a train.

The rogue elements in her discourse, largely made up of

ing rough in the storage room above a temple, or the Little Nun, who brings porridge to Wang and is raped to death by Ah Q.

Least attractive of all is Ah Q — who perhaps represents the petit bourgeoisie — becoming mysteriously rich during the interval, tempting the Little Nun with a silk negligee and, when she repulses him, remembering how his mother used to slap his face. This may be why he rapes her under the plastic sheeting that covers holes in the temple roof. The temple may represent paradise on earth. Or it may only be an idea. Like anarchy. Or the revolution that breaks out while Ah Q is busy raping.

Wang may possibly represent the intelligentia. He could be

acerbic cocktail parody, are violent anger directed at quite undeserving objects and strangely touching fragments of childhood memories. James has an acute ear for the ellipses which mark the vital loss. Most striking is Flynn's braying laugh which, by the end, sounds more like a retch.

In the slower moving second half, a sadder Flynnie is engaged in therapy, having lost both husband and would-be lover. Her initial attempt to deceive the therapist perhaps rings truer than the eventual opening to self-knowledge, but this is an impressive production, maintaining a high standard in writing, acting and direction, by Jonathan Tafer.

HARRY EYRES

mating their welcome. Hall has the lightest of compositional touches and knows his way around the contours of a perfect pop song, but that did not save the likes of "I Can't Go For That (No Can Do)" and "Maneater" from being cooked up into heavy-duty workouts for the many men behind him.

This may well have been John Oates's influence. All moustache, muscle definition and singlet, he dragged the band through an obscure number from his back catalogue, veering away from Hall's Temptations-inspired blue-eyed soul to something altogether rockier. Hall led them straight back into a tight, understressed "Kiss on My List" but this failed to buck the trend of over-vamping

JASPER REES

and unbalancing some good tunes. For all the lassitude of his voice, and his meshy harmonies with Oates, Hall in his less lyrical moments bears an unflattering resemblance to one Michael Bolton. It is not just the all-American stage presence, as one or two of the less well-known songs sounded about as MTV as pop music gets. But there was a pair of well-placed reminders that the duo's influences are illustrious — "She's Gone", a melodic Motown pastiche, and a competent cover of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" to finish.

One cannot, after all, take the Hall of Fame out of Hall and Oates. One cannot, after all, take the Hall of Fame out of Hall and Oates.

Lucky were those who heard this account of it, not because it had anything different to say but because Tennstedt applied a kind of regenerative vitality to his romantic exploration of the music's character. He made use of doubled woodwind in the orchestra, but only as reinforcement for particular passages. In the music's sense of triumph over adversity could be felt a reflection of the conductor's own indomitable struggle against ill health.

NOEL GOODWIN



are not giving their best. I make detailed notes when they audition and send the notes to them."

The Foundation offers post-graduate singing scholarships to the London Opera Centre and to the Royal Northern College of Music. Moores is now planning to send young British singers abroad for six months. "I'm already paying for this young tenor from Lancashire to spend three weeks in Italy with his tent. I thought it was daft: there he was, singing to me in Italian, and he'd never set foot in the bloody country."

Moores' other prized project is financing recordings of opera sung in English, which EMI produces. "I back things which people ought to know about. I didn't like Wagner when I was young, but Reginald Goodall shone a light on that she was not ready."

In the early days Moores, who worked backstage at Glyndebourne and then in Austrian and Italian opera houses, supported Joan Sutherland, Sir Geraint Evans and the conductor Sir Colin Davis when they were unknown. "I met Colin Davis when he was playing clarinet in the stage band at Glyndebourne, and I was the transport officer."

Does he take pleasure in following the illustrious careers of singers he supports initially?

"That question misses the point. I'm not doing it to get a kick out of it. Joan Sutherland would have been a great success without me anyway. Of course one gets emotionally involved with people's careers: when Geraint Evans retired I stood in the stalls of Covent Garden and cried. But I try to guide young singers, and can be extremely nasty when I feel they

RICHARD MORRISON

H is entry into arts funding two years ago could be interpreted as a whim. "I phoned up London Contemporary Dance Theatre one day, and said: 'Do you need any money, any help?' I'm impulsive by nature. If something captures my imagination, I say go ahead."

Dance captured the imagination of Katz, a 42-year-old London art dealer who specialises in sculpture, when he saw a performance in 1969 of Robert Cohan's *Cell*, which "moved me to tears. I thought, 'I'd love to be in it.' In 1970, he started intensive dance training at the London Contemporary Dance School but he was too old — and, he admits, too impatient — to become a professional dancer. Instead, he became an angel both to LCDT and Arc Dance Company, a small independent troupe run by the choreographer Kim Brandstrup.

Katz's initial foray into dance sponsorship put £23,000 into *Crescendo*, one of Cohan's last works as artistic director of LCDT. Since then, Katz has given the company a further £25,000 for new works. He also put £10,000 into Arc's production of *Peer Gynt* earlier this year and is spending another £25,000 to sponsor a new Brandstrup work.

For Katz, who left school at 14 to work in a bowling alley, "the thrill of sponsorship in contemporary dance is really the first night, bringing my guests, enjoying the dance, talking to the dancers and having a superb party afterwards."

Yet he is disappointed with the short life of a contemporary dance work. "It seems a lot of money for just four nights. I gave £60,000 to the National Gallery to have a room redecorated and rehung; that's going to be there forever."

"I'd like to see greater tax incentives, but you also have to make people feel important, give them a dinner party, put up a plaque to them."

Katz believes in the power of art to heal the wounds in society. "It would be nice somehow to get the ledger-louts of the world educated in the arts. If you spend time looking at the Old Masters in the National Gallery, it's so serene, so quiet, you don't feel like going out and smashing up an old lady."

DEBRA CRAINE



Richard Morrison

TELEVISION

Found: a clown who really does want to play Hamlet

Anthea Gerrie charts the career of Britain's "lovable hooligan" with serious ambitions

A dran Edmondson is certain to drive disgusted viewers to their telephones on Sunday when they see the most unsavoury screen character of 1990 in a BBC 1 drama, *News Hounds*.

The caricatured crassness which Edmondson perfected as Vivian in *The Young Ones* and later in the cult sitcom *Filthy Rich and Caspaf* gives way to a portrait of epic adventure that had been present at the beginning of the concerto was in no way diminished. Indeed, listeners were treated to a depth of almost Mahlerian angst right through the stony opening movement.

There were blithes, however — mostly miscalculations of timing, as when a whole bar separated piano and orchestra in what should have been a simultaneous chord near the end of the slow movement. But the sense of epic adventure that had been present at the beginning of the concerto was in no way diminished. Indeed, listeners were treated to a depth of almost Mahlerian angst right through the stony opening movement.

Edmondson is on record as declaring this concerto "the most miraculous work he [Brahms] ever composed". His feeling for it was amply evident not only in the commanding technique of his piano playing, but, more importantly, in the intellectual gravitas with which he took the musical line through from its initial grandeur to a final rondo of stunning rhythmic vivacity.

The conductor prefaced this with polish and clarity of orchestral texture in Weber's overture to *Oberon*, the introduction gently evocative like turning the pages of a much-loved book, and the rest springing into picturesque focus. His gestured pleasure in the orchestra's response was subsequently reaffirmed in a work that never diminishes with repetition.

Lucky were those who heard this account of it, not because it had anything different to say but because Tennstedt applied a kind of regenerative vitality to his romantic exploration of the music's character. He made use of doubled woodwind in the orchestra, but only as reinforcement for particular passages. In the music's sense of triumph over adversity could be felt a reflection of the conductor's own indomitable struggle against ill health.

Adrian Edmondson as journalist Phil Burke in *News Hounds*

ingenuously in his dressing-room before a performance of *The Rocky Horror Show*. He played Hamlet at his minor public school, Pocklington — an environment which, he points out, provided ample role models for the twits who are the staples of his comedy act. Then he discovered *Stepies and Son*, Hancock, Morecambe and Wise — the whole rich vein of Sixties television comedy — and has been spicing Wilfrid Brambell's facial expressions ever since.

Like his longtime partner, Rik Mayall, Edmondson has built his career on the British penchant for lovable boozers. He thinks people find a release, as he does, in screen violence, and spends happy hours tidyng the mechanics of verbal abuse.

"I'm fascinated by arguments and relish the chance to watch and listen if I'm lucky enough to see one on the street. When you're not involved, they are hilarious."

Edmondson directs some of his own work and also writes much of his material — most notably the *Comic Strip* rock-band parody, *Bad News*, in which he starred as the group's leader, Vim Fuego. In the subsequent real-life concert tour, he also exorcised the badly-behaved rock 'n' roller that lurked within him.

His next two projects reunite him with his fellow rockers. He will direct a television film he is writing with Nigel Planer, and with co-star Mayall has written a new BBC sitcom to air next year.

"We called it *Bottom* because it was the funniest word we could think of: it's about people who are right on the bottom. Rik plays a guy who was going to save the world but is now an embittered social climber, and I play an unemployed lout in a grubby suit, wasting away his days in the betting shop."

Established as a genuine comic talent of the Eighties, Edmondson is now thinking beyond knockabout farce. "Comedy is an over-rated medium: the notion today is that even the commercial break has to be relentlessly funny."

Nonetheless he has ambitions to play classical roles that are rarely exploited for their inherent humour. Hamlet has comic possibilities, he suggests, remembering the role that won him an Actor of the Year vote from classmates at Pocklington. "Shakespeare is full of laughs that get lost in over-reverent productions. Hamlet enjoyed his misery, and that's how I'd like to present him one day."

● *News Hounds* is on BBC 1, Sunday at 9.00pm.

JASPER REES

Relatives of hostages urge government to negotiate

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government came under increased pressure yesterday to intensify its efforts to gain the release of the three Britons being held hostage in Beirut. In spite of Foreign Office assurances that it was doing all it could, demands for more diplomatic activity grew swiftly in reaction to Brian Keenan's harrowing account of his time in captivity with the journalists John McCarthy.

The success of Irish diplomats in securing Mr Keenan's release is seen by relatives of the British hostages, Terry Waite, Mr McCarthy and Jackie Mann, as evidence of what can be achieved through prolonged negotiation.

The most vehement appeal yesterday came from John Waite,

cousin of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who was captured in Beirut in January, 1987.

"We have left it to the British government and allowed them to carry on. Now we have to face the fact that we are the only country which has not negotiated the release of a hostage. The precedent is there now. The Irish have secured the release of Brian Keenan without doing any sort of a deal. There is no doubt that the British government must now do more to secure the release of our hostages." Referring to Mr Keenan's impassioned description, he added: "We had a glimpse of hell yesterday... it has ended for Brian but it continues for John. And they had company. Imagine how it must be for Terry who has not been kept with other hostages."

There was some confusion yesterday about the amount of contact between the British and Irish foreign offices since Mr Keenan's release. The Foreign Office would say only that it was "maintaining contact as always" although the Dublin office later reported "increased contact". The Irish have offered to make available the contacts they have nurtured during their negotiations, involving their most senior diplomats and politicians, but would not say whether the offer had been taken up.

The Foreign Office maintains that the British position should not be compared directly to that of the neutral Irish but accepts that the success in freeing Mr Keenan is a positive move.

Terry Waite's brother, David, also urged the government to work swiftly and closely with the Irish. "We have always backed the government's view that no deals should be done with terrorists and I still believe that. But we are talking about human lives and it is far too important a matter to play party or national politics."

The Waite family's comments echoed the views of Jill Morrell, of the Friends of John McCarthy, who has repeatedly called on the government to follow the lead of the Irish in negotiating closely with Iran and Syria.

Continued from page 1

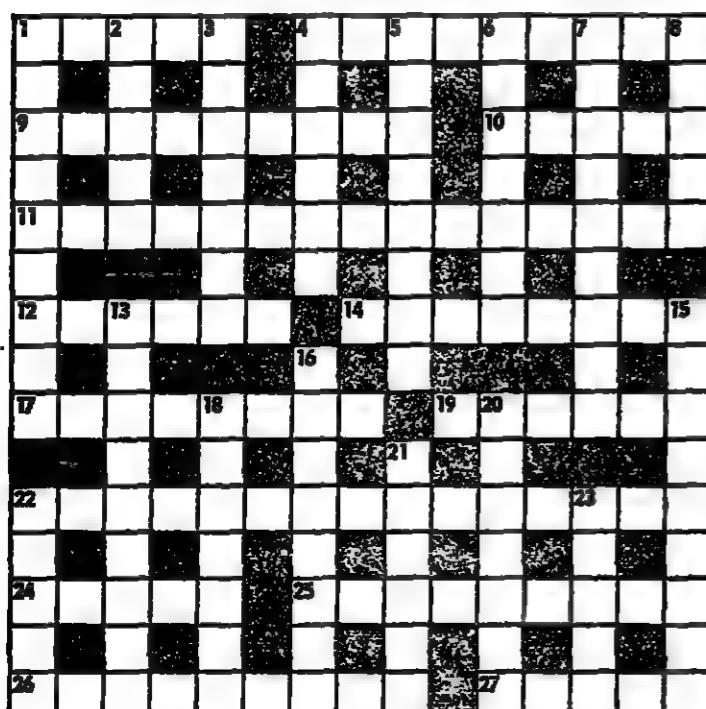
men. The new committee has the task described by several authoritative Soviet commentators as impossible of combining the two plans. Neither has yet been made public, but the government programme is believed to maintain much central control and insist on universal safeguards as prices rise.

The other, referred to by Mr Gorbachov as the "Shatalin programme" after his chief economic adviser, Stanislaw Shatalin, is believed to propose a limited period when price controls will remain, coupled with intensive privatisation to soak up rouble for which there are at present no goods to exchange.

Mr Gorbachov also stood by his earlier insistence that the Soviet market should remain "integrated, a single economic territory". There was an urgent need to bring society together, he said, alluding to social and ethnic divisions in recent months.

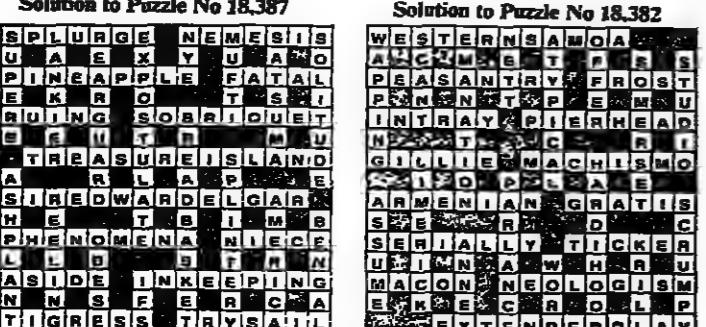
"We can only extricate ourselves if we stay together," he said, warning that an already complex situation would only become more complex if people showed "resistance".

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,388

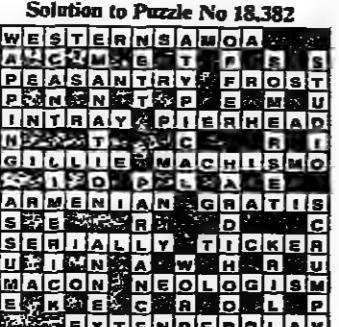


- ACROSS**
- To guard against losing money, put in box, perhaps (5).
 - Accordingly, spies enumerate who's left (9).
 - Fruit in tree can degenerate (9).
 - Labourer's refusal to accept work initially halved (5).
 - Dons are unlikely to find this tree funny (7,8).
 - Boy getting nothing (as it happens) right (6).
 - Crustacean caught two aquatic creatures (8).
 - Island in North Atlantic abandoned by grotesque citizen (8).
 - Contributions to goal in each half of York's victory (6).
 - Trim Elizabeth's favourite sheep (6,5).
 - Clues for auditor in the City (5).
 - Awful blunder I'd not kept under control (9).
 - United about Italian, head observed (9).
 - Appropriate girl to kiss (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,387



Solution to Puzzle No 18,382



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WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- GAPPY**
- Fall of gags
 - Callative
 - Riverside wet fawes

TEER

- First-year fallow deer
- The town crier in Sark
- To plaster

GALLIMATIAS

- Nonsense
- A pulse stew
- A helmet eyepiece

TONNAG

- A useless horse
- A shawl
- Orkney standing stones

Answers on page 13

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Diary & Powys..... 714

Gwynedd & Cardig..... 715

NW England..... 716

W & S Yorks & Dales..... 717

W England..... 718

Cumbria & Lake District..... 719

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E Central Scotland..... 722

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M-ways/roads M4-M25..... 732

M-ways/roads M4-M25..... 733

M-ways/roads M25..... 735

M25 London Orbital only..... 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways..... 737

West Country..... 738

Wales..... 740

East Anglia..... 741

North-West England..... 742

North-East England..... 743

Scotland..... 744

Northern Ireland..... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,382

SPLURGON NEMESIS IS

WAEX YUANO

PINEAPPLE FATAL

EKR O TSPSI

GUINNESS SOBRIQUET

EUTH TH MU

THE TREASURE ISLAND

ARLADE

SHREDWARD DELICIA

THE TBLM B

PHENOMENA HIECE

LLEB TIRHIN

ASIDE INKEEPING

NNS FERCA

EXTENDEDPLAY

The winners of last Saturday's competition, the British Building Group, Wimborne, Somerset, N Henson, Springfield Close, Golden Common, Winchester, J Woolfield, Prior Road, Southsea, Hampshire, O M Durke, Mackay End, Gwydir Lane, Cambridge, S J McWatters, Pill Cottage, Llanrhudd, Swansea.

Competition closes Saturday 10pm.

Prize draw Sunday 1pm.

Entries close Saturday 10pm.

Competition Crossword, page 13

WEATHER

England and Wales will be cloudy with scattered outbreaks of rain. The rain will be heavy in places, but will gradually die out from the west. Western coasts may stay cloudy with some light rain, but the south-east should stay dry and bright. Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and scattered showers. Outlook: sunny and dry at first, but rain will spread to all parts.

ABROAD

MONDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

TUESDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

WEDNESDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

THURSDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

FRIDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

SATURDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

SUNDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

AROUND BRITAIN

MONDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

TUESDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

WEDNESDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

THURSDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

FRIDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

SATURDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

SUNDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

MONDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

TUESDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

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SATURDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

SUNDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy, m-mist

MONDAY: Thunder, d. lightning, fl. fog, s-snow, g-gale, h-hail, c-cloudy,

- SPORT 23-29
- RACING 28-29
- BOATS 31
- MONEY 32-44
- MANCHESTER DEGREES 37

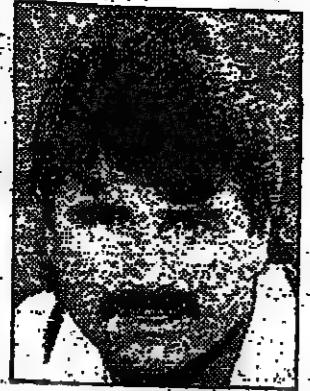
THE TIMES

SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1 1990

It's in the

The final chance



ALLAN Lamb (above) leads Northamptonshire into the final of the NatWest Trophy against Lancashire at Lord's today hoping to bring a successful conclusion to a year which, for his county, has been more notable for disciplinary and injury problems than success on the pitch.

By contrast, David Hughes, the captain of Lancashire, leads a team which is on the crest of a wave which has already carried them to success in the Benson and Hedges Cup and to the fringes of the championship race. Alan Lee looks ahead to a match which may not run quite to form. Page 27

GOLF

Back in front

SANDY Lyle, the former winner of the Open Championship and The Masters, put himself on course for his first championship for two years. His 66 in the second round of the European Masters at Crans-sur-Sierre yesterday gave him a share of the lead at 11 under par. Page 28

TENNIS

Seles point



MONICA Seles (above), the No. 3 seed, was beaten by Linda Fernando, from Italy, 6-1, 7-6, in the third round of the US Open yesterday, however the talk at the tournament was still dominated by one of the leading men, Andre Agassi, who had been accused of spitting at an umpire. Page 26

RACING

Distant hopes

ENGLISH stables are strongly represented in the three group one European prizes in Ireland, France and Germany tomorrow. Willie Carson rides Elmaamul, the Eclipse Stakes winner, in the Phoenix Champion Stakes at Phoenix Park while Pat Eddery partners Distant Relative in the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp. Ian Bey, riding his third group one German prize, leads the assault on the Grosser Preis von Baden at Baden-Baden. Page 28

FOOTBALL

Foreign field



ASTON Villa responded to losing Graham Taylor as their manager with an imaginative stroke, appointing Dr Jozef Venglos (above), the former manager of the Czechoslovak national team, as his successor. Clive White met the man who has become the first foreigner to manage a first division club. Page 25

YACHTING

A new wave

THE pursuit of an Olympic gold medal demands commitment and dedication. A small group of women are prepared to make the sacrifices that are necessary for a chance of success in 1992. Page 31

Innocent Elliott upsets hornets' nest

FROM DAVID MILLER IN SPLIT
INTERNATIONAL athletics is, and will continue to be, in a turmoil over what is going to become known as the Peter Elliott Affair. It is ironic that there should, over the years, have been so many controversies surrounding the career of so pleasant and uncontroversial a man.

A formal protest yesterday by five countries to the jury of appeal at the European championships here, against the reinstatement on Thursday evening of Elliott in the 1,500 metres final today, after he had been pushed and fallen in a semi-final, was rejected because,

under Rule 112 of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, no protest is permitted against a jury's final decision. The protest came from Spain, The Netherlands, Italy, Portugal and Switzerland.

In a statement of explanation, the jury said that, under Rule 141/1, it had the alternative of re-running the heat or reinstating Elliott. To have re-run the first heat would have required re-running both — because of the factor of the four fastest losers qualifying for the final — and the reinstatement of Elliott was considered the fairest solution.

The protest was on the grounds that Elliott, knocked down by Fuhrberger, of East Germany, had not completed the course. There would have been no protest had he continued and finished, even if last. Luciana Barra, a council member of the European Athletic Association, said yesterday: "If people want a limitation of the scope to reinstate an athlete to those who finish the race, then it should be inserted in writing in the rules."

Andreas Brugger, the Zurich promoter, though not party to the protest, said: "This precedent means that in future we may have

runners deliberately falling, the same as in football — the diving runner."

Of half a dozen or more national federations with whom I have spoken, all considered the decision carried serious risks for the future. What if the athlete was not the favourite — as Elliott is, as Jim Ryun was in the 1972 Olympic Games — but a lesser runner from an unfancied nation?

The answer, according to Juan Manuel de Hoyos, the Spanish chairman of the jury, is that the decision was not historic, but according to the rules ... We

cannot accept that [in future] athletes would attempt such a deceptive practice [deliberately falling]. Such confidence in human nature may prove to be naive.

British opinion, trying to be as objective as possible in the circumstances, is that the decision was in the best interest of sportsmanship when Elliott was seriously fouled by an athlete who was disqualified. The view comes from Les Jones, the team manager, Robert Stinson, the IAAF treasurer, Fred Holder, a former IAAF official, and Alan Pascoe,

the marketing and promotions consultant. Yet if the IAAF managed to make all its future jury decisions on the grounds of sportsmanship as well as the rules, it would indeed be setting a precedent for the whole of international sport, never mind opening a hornets' nest.

Meanwhile, Elliott, relieved to be in the final but nursing a sprained, bandaged wrist, has certainly suffered more than had he run the full distance and qualified. "I just hope they don't whistle me when I go to the line," he said. "I'm glad to be there, but not by this means."

Supreme Jackson denies Jarrett

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SPLIT

COLIN Jackson was right. There had been no need to doubt that he and Tony Jarrett would score a one-two in the European championships 110 metres hurdles yesterday. Jackson, from Cardiff, won the gold, and Jarrett set an English record in taking the silver medal.

Jackson, the Commonwealth champion and arguably the world No. 1, had run two bad races out of three coming into the final, but here looked supreme once more. Only Greg Foster, the world champion, has run faster this year than the 13.18sec Jackson recorded yesterday. And Jackson has twice run 13.08sec, a European record, this year.

"It will definitely be a British one-two — it could be my first and his second, or the other way round," Jackson had said after striking five of the ten hurdles and looking unimpressive in the semi-final. His forecast could hardly have been more accurate. Jarrett was within a stride of upsetting the order.

Sally Gunnell, of Britain, who was fifth in the Olympics, was disappointed to finish sixth here. Her optimism had belied her form. On Monday she thought she had "a good chance" of winning. However, nothing she had done this season pointed to that.

Gunnell was right about one thing, though. She had said in April that she would need to run under 54 seconds to win. Ledovskaya recorded 53.62sec. Gunnell finishing in 53.45sec. Her British record is 54.03sec.

Two years ago, Geoff Parsons said he expected to be Britain's No. 1 high jumper "for another seven years". His prediction was proved wrong in one year. In 1989, Dalton Grant equalled or broke 12 national records.

Jackson, aged 23, arrived for the race with a bandaged right leg. He has been suffering cartilage trouble, and will have an exploratory operation when he gets home. Jackson had managed to keep the injury a secret from Jarrett, even though they were staying on the same floor in the team-hotel.

"I just got beaten by the better man on the day. I've got a lot of respect for Colin because he has come out here in bandages and still won," Jarrett said.

Jackson said: "There was a lot of pressure on me, but it brought the best out of me." On his new haircut, which has left very little hair, his coach, Malcolm Arnold,

said: "He has had three offers from coconut shys since he has been here."

The bronze medal was won by Dzianis Kozicki, from West Germany, a long way back in 13.50sec. Philippe Tourret, the Frenchman who beat Jackson in Zurich a fortnight ago, could finish no better than sixth, in 13.61sec.

Jackson said: "I knew I had to get as good a start as Tourret. I had to put pressure on him to make him make mistakes."

Tatyana Ledovskaya, of the Soviet Union, won the 400 metres hurdles, not that you would have known it from what she said afterwards. "I ran without any special effort. I was surprised when I realised there was no one around me. I realised I had a great chance and I succeeded. It was fantastic." Ledovskaya speaking? No, Anita Protti, of Switzerland, who was second.

Sally Gunnell, of Britain, who was fifth in the Olympics, was disappointed to finish sixth here. Her optimism had belied her form. On Monday she thought she had "a good chance" of winning. However, nothing she had done this season pointed to that.

Two years ago, Geoff Parsons said he expected to be Britain's No. 1 high jumper "for another seven years". His prediction was proved wrong in one year. In 1989, Dalton Grant equalled or broke 12 national records.

But this year Parsons got his own back. In a period of wretched form through June and early July, Grant was anybody's victim, including Parsons. His explanation was that his technique had suffered at the expense of strength work. Perhaps he has timed his season perfectly.

Winner at the Parcelforce Games and the AAA championships in the last six weeks, Grant has now qualified for today's final. Last year as much would have been assumed, and he won the European Cup: this time there were doubts.

The qualifying height was 2.28 metres, and Grant was successful on his third attempt. Now he can think of a medal. The high jump has come down a peg or two after the late withdrawal of the favourites for gold and silver. Sorin Matei, of Romania, and Patrik Sjoberg, of Sweden, have pulled out because of injuries.

Ralf Sonn, of West Germany, Georgi Dakov, of the Soviet Union, and Dragutin Topic, the Yugoslav who set a world junior record last month, are the ones Grant most has to worry about.

A tilt at the title: Jackson (left) and Jarrett dip for the line to finish first and second in the European 110 metres hurdles in Split



At the Seoul Olympics, Russian athletes won all three medals in the high jump with 1.91 metres, and showed great consistency in vaults, long jumps and hurdles.

Results, page 24

RESULTS: Men's 110 metres hurdles 1. C Jackson (GBR), 13.18sec; 2. A Jarrett (GBR), 13.21; 3. D Kozicki (WGR), 13.50; 4. T Jarrett (GBR), 13.51; 5. P Tourret (FRA), 13.51; 7. L Ledovskaya (SovUSSR), 13.61; 9. T Gunnell (GBR), 13.62; 11. J Nikanov (USSR), did not finish. Women's High Jump: 1. H Henkel (WGR), 1.91m; 2. B Wiesig (WGR), 1.89; 3. S Matan (USSR), 1.88; 4. B Kretschmar (Germany), 1.86; 5. J Kovacs (Hung), 1.85; 6. H Beck (ED), 1.85; 7. V Gotovskaya (USSR), 1.85; 8. H Haugland (Nor), 1.85; 9. M Gulyas (Hung), 1.85; 10. D Turchat (USSR), 1.85; 11. J Brankovic (CZ), 1.85; 12. A Arnes (WGR), 1.80. Heptathlon: 1. S Brun (WGR), 6,882pts; 2. H Fischer (ED), 6,772; 3. P Beer (ED), 6,631; 4. I Balon (USSR), 6,627.

More results, page 24

Four-match ban

The Rugby League's disciplinary committee has imposed a four-match suspension on the Barrow forward Steve Clinton for being sent off in last Sunday's Lancashire Cup defeat at Wigan.

Simmering Indian summer comes slowly to the boil

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

Boys will be boys

THE United States Open tennis championships this week have been dignified (in so far as this event ever gets dignified) by the presence of a 56-year-old ballboy. The person in question is James Nelson, who came from Arkansas to New York in July to try out for the job. Steve Shukow, the event's assistant director of ballboys, said: "He's doing well."

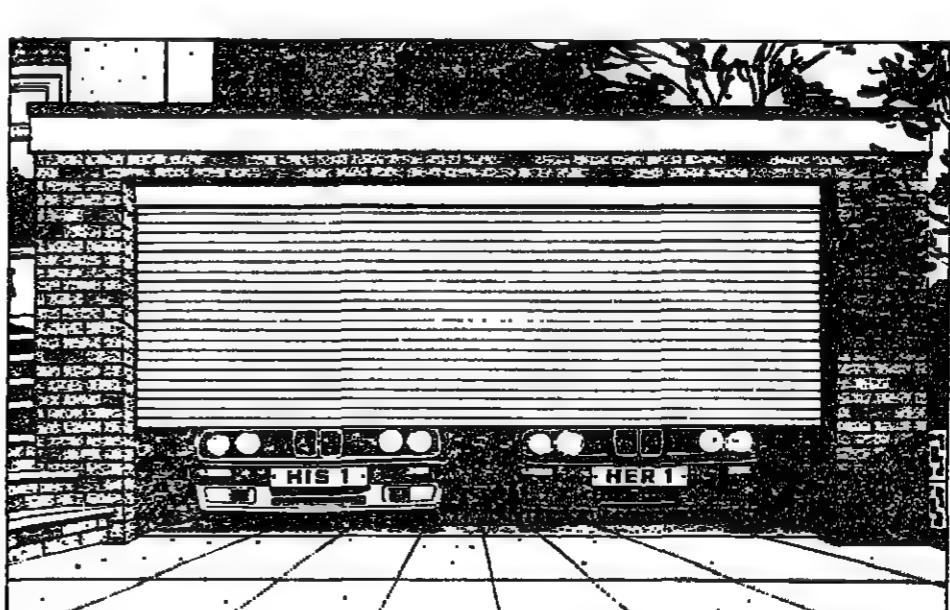
Monkey business

HERE have been scenes of wonder on the football pitch in Sicily. The Italian footy season began with a friendly between Palermo and Juventus. The script being the homecoming of Italy's World Cup hero, Toto Schillaci, a Sicilian who now plays for Juventus. The home club was rather surprised at the number of requests for wheelchair accommodation. But the other two factions aren't having that.

As the controversy gathers momentum, Ranjit Bharia, a sports commentator, equated sport with tamasha, or traditional folk theatre. "Tamasha contains tragedy, comedy and farce. We have not grasped the Western ethos by which international sport is run," he said.

The various factions are demanding that their own list should be chosen. "It will be an insult to India if the Chinese authorities recognise anyone but us," one sporting dignitary said. India has never won an individual Olympic gold. The most memorable moment on the athletics track in Seoul was a public row between members of the women's relay team, who ended up refusing to run. As the arguments continue, Vijay Amritraj, the tennis player, is in the middle of a row over money with the Indian Tennis Federation.

● Has the world gone mad? This column's recent postbags have included two items for review that can only indicate an affirmative answer. I have a new book, the cover of which demands: "How Sport is the lingua franca of the world. It is just that every nation understands it in a different way."



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Christie's greatest contribution yet to come

Split

WHEN Linford Christie went back this year to Jamaica, where he was born, his first visit for 23 years, the fact that he was captain of the British athletics team more impressed the Jamaicans than if he had been an Olympic champion. The Premier invited him to his private residence.

All home in Britain, the fact that a black man is captain of the country's most successful international team tends, publicly, to pass unregarded. Significantly, Christie is much respected among his colleagues.

There exists, therefore, the opportunity in the near future for the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) to make an invaluable contribution to social development by appointing Christie, when he retires from competition, to an administrative position: the first such appointment in a traditionally hidebound and, un-

consciously, racist administration. Christie, who was 30 in April and is Britain's most prolific medal winner, says he has not done enough yet to retire. "I still want something big, the Olympic Games, the World Cup," he says. "The more you have done, the easier such a job would be, if I was considered."

At the moment, he says self-effacingly, being team captain does carry a bit of weight.

Although black competitors now dominate the British team, and non-whites form a substantial part of football, boxing, basketball and other national sports, Britain's lack of genuine practical social integration has prevented non-whites achieving administrative and official coaching status in sport.

Keith Connor, the former triple jump champion, complained that there was prejudice against him when he applied for a national



COMMENT

DAVID MILLER
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

post; he subsequently left for the United States.

"Eventually, I think I could be of use," Christie says. "I could help bridge the gap. The sport can be better run. People out there in the black community do feel like Keith. Old habits die hard. The older generation should have apprentices, and some of these should be black; the older generation should be teaching them the ropes. Things have changed."

Some years ago, Christie suggested to Nigel Cooper, then secretary of the BAAB, that he should take on a black apprentice.

The appointment of Anita

DeFrantz as a member of the International Olympic Committee representing the United States, the first black woman on the IOC, is an important advance, although integration in the professions, civil service and business is far more advanced in the US than in "egalitarian" Britain. Christie admits that substantial change will take time, though he accepts that the coloured population to an extent does not help itself.

"You don't see black parents at meetings, supporting the kids like white parents do," he says.

"We've never had that. My par-

ents thought I was crazy to get involved in sport. So when, say, a club job becomes available, it's a white parent who probably takes it. The process starts from there."

Christie, from Shepherds Bush, west London, was a pupil at a Fulham comprehensive, and enjoyed a childhood that was well integrated and happy. He feels free and comfortable in west London and never has racial difficulties apart from occasionally, relations with the police. There is, he says, no prejudice within the athletics team.

"None. You've got people who depend on each other, in competitions like the Europa Cup [which Britain won last year] and the World Cup. People wouldn't be able to hide if it was there. The team is so harmonious they just don't see colour."

Christie is already involved in what are called "good works", albeit that he receives fees for some of it. For two years he

has said, and the most testing, is that it gives you the chance to show yourself one-on-one, unlike team games.

If Christie has an obvious weakness, it is a tendency during the emotional stress just before and after races, to be intolerant of any doubts about him expressed by the press. We have seen the same reaction often enough from Daley Thompson, even when they were proved justified, and Christie knows that it is something that a man with his ambitions must rise above. "In a way, press criticism helps me. It gives me extra drive," he says.

"The excitement of being here in Split is the most important thing for me in these championships," he says. "I'd still be in athletics even if I wasn't making money as a professional, which I now am. I tell youngsters, do it because you like it, and the money will come later."

The best thing about athletics

Saddled with the burden of favouritism, the cart horse prepares to bolt for glory

Elliott in mood to break the fetters

From DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
SPLIT

DARE one say it, but the only way Peter Elliott is likely to fail today in his attempt to win the European 1,500 metres title is if he falls over. The Tunney-Dempsey "long count" has come to the track. Elliott was down and out by most people's reckoning, but, like Tunney, should come back to win on points.

"In my heart of hearts, I know I should not be in the final," Elliott said yesterday, recalling his tumble in the heats and reinstatement after a protest. "I know I will start as favourite." And so he will. Only Jens-Peter Herold, of East Germany, is boxing at Elliott's weight.

To pick José Luis González or Steve Cram would be relying too much on nostalgia. At the peak of their powers, in 1985, Cram set a mile world record and Gonzalez chased him home to become the fourth fastest ever. Two years later, Gonzalez became the Kryptonite factor in Cram's career: he beat him in the Europa Cup, when Cram assumed he would win, and the Briton has achieved nothing of significance since.

Elliott, meanwhile, is the new Superman, with a Commonwealth title and world indoor record this year. Injury and illness impinged on his plans for the season, but, in two comeback races, he has looked sharp. A sprint coach has helped the so-called cart horse to cut loose from his cart: Elliott no longer needs to run from the front, but can win with a fast last 200 metres.

That said, Thursday's experience has left him hoping that it will not come down to a sprint. "I want a fast race to eliminate any possibility of further trouble," he said. Cram has shown nothing in racing this summer to suggest he can win but, judging by his finish in the heats, from which he qualified only as a fastest loser, his only chance is off a quick pace, and not a dash for the line.

Herold's 3min 33.75sec, in Zurich a fortnight ago makes him a contender, while Gonzalez, whose injury problems have kept him quiet for the

Today's line-up

Runners and their best times (secs)

	years
Peter Elliott (GBR)	3:33.0
Jens-Peter Herold (EGY)	3:33.2
José Luis González (Spa)	3:33.4
Mogens Guldager (Den)	3:35.08
Neil Horstfeld (GBR)	3:35.08
Steve Cram (GBR)	3:35.08
Mario Salas (Por)	3:36.42
Markus Heinziger (Switz)	3:36.63
Fernan Cacho (Spa)	3:37.04
Gennaro di Napoli (Ita)	3:37.08
Hans Kukler (West)	3:37.17
Marc Corstjens (Bel)	3:37.25
Robin van Helden (Neth)	3:38.56

past two years, cannot be disregarded after his 3min 34.64sec in Barcelona in July. Neil Horstfeld, Britain's third man, said yesterday that he was "thinking of winning". If he does, one wonders what drama will unfold.

At the Parcelforce Games, when Horstfeld won, Steve Backley set a javelin world record while the 1,500 metres was in progress; Horstfeld won the AAA championship while everyone was concentrating on Tony Morell's reaction to being forced off the track; and here he was looking impressive in the second heat while everyone was reflecting on Elliott's fall in the first.

In the 5,000 metres today, Salvatore Antibo is as strong a favourite as Elliott. He won the 10,000 metres on a solo run, and victory here would be the men's riposte to Katrin Krabbe's double in the women's.

Eamonn Martin and Gary Staines, of Britain, are two of perhaps half a dozen who may think they have a chance. "Antibo feels most comfortable getting a gap and I have to stop him doing that," Martin said. "Gary is someone I expect to beat, but he is in good shape [evidenced by his 13:14.28 in Zurich]. But there is no point in worrying about Gary with Antibo in there."

Three British men have qualified for the 1,500 metres final and three for the 5,000 metres. The marathon runners did not have heats, but still Britain has only one finalist.

Geoff Wightman, an afterthought by the selectors, is used to being alone: he was the only member of the English team in the Commonwealth Games to finish.

Herold's 3min 33.75sec, in Zurich a fortnight ago makes him a contender, while Gonzalez, whose injury problems have kept him quiet for the



Bent on success: Dalton Grast (above), of Britain, clears 2.28 metres yesterday to qualify for today's high jump final, where he will be joined by the Spaniard, Ordiz (below). Parsons and Reilly, of Britain, failed to qualify



Today's programme

All events
BBC 1: 10.45-18.20, ITV: 15.05-17.20,
23.00-01.30, Europe: 15.00-19.00,
23.00-01.30.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM SPLIT

Men

High jump

2.28 metres or leading 12 overall quality

for men

QUALIFIERS: Pool A: 1, A. Yemelin

(USSR) 2.28, 2, G. Ortiz (Spa) 2.28, 3, G.

Danov (Bul) 2.28, 4, D Topic (Uug) 2.28, 5,

2.28, 6, R. Sorm (Wgt) 2.28, 3, D. Degani (Ita)

2.28, 7, D. Grant (GB) and A. Parvulescu

(Rom) 2.28, 8, H. Parsons (Eng) in pool B, 9,

A. 2.28, 10, R. Reilly (Ireland) in pool B, 20

Discus

Qualifying

63.00 metres or leading 12 overall quality

for men

QUALIFIERS: Pool A: 1, A. Herold

(EGY) 63.00, 2, G. Roseau

(EGY) 63.00, 3, R.

Lutino (USSR) 62.70, 4, I. Buga (Cz)

61.89, 5, S. Fernandes (Port) 61.32, 6, V.

Parvulescu (Rom) 61.32, 7, H. Parsons

(Irel) 61.32, 8, J. E. Brun (Nor) 61.74,

61.60, 9, M. Salas (Por) 61.50, 10, G.

Grast (GBR) 61.49, 11, P. Danov (Bul) 61.49,

12, 13, 24.29, 14, 24.29, 15, 18, 19,

20, 21, 22.60, 23, 23.81, C. Court (GB) 23.81,

no height, 12.67, 23.81, J. Kelly (Irel) did not

height, 18.76, maximum:

1. A. Astapovich (USSR), 64.14m; 2, T.

Hammer

Final

1, I. Astapovich (USSR), 64.14m; 2,

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B
East Germany	—	—	—
Great Britain	—	—	—
Soviet Union	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—
Czechoslovakia	—	—	—
Finland	—	—	—
Spain	—	—	—
West Germany	—	—	—
Hungary	—	—	—
Spain	—	—	—
Norway	—	—	—
Romania	—	—	—
Austria	—	—	—
Poland	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	—	—	—

Today's programme

All events

15.00: Men's marathon, men's high jump

15.15: Men's discus, 18.15: Women's

15.30: Women's 100m, 18.30: Men's

15.45: Women's 200m, 18.45: Men's

15.55: Women's 400m, 18.55: Men's

15.55: Women's 800m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 1500m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 3000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 5000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 10000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 15000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 20000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 30000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 40000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 50000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 60000m, 19.00: Men's

15.55: Women's 70000m, 19.00: Men's

Aston Villa's manager diagnoses improvement, not change, as the cure for English football

Venglos concocts a rich remedy

WHATEVER some people may think about the decision to appoint a foreigner as manager of an English club, there can be little doubt that Dr Jozef Venglos, the vastly experienced manager of Aston Villa, has something special to offer the domestic game.

As one manager said recently: "I think a peep over the fence at Villa's training ground ought to be revealing for any manager, young or old."

Providing that the former Czechoslovak national team manager can acquaint himself quickly enough with the English game and keep Doug Ellis, his notoriously impatient chairman sweet, he could turn out to be the most significant import since Keith Burkinshaw introduced Osas Arditis and Ricardo Villa.

Venglos, the first foreigner to manage a first division club, may not be a World Cup hero on the same scale as England's favourite Argentines, but this quiet, unassuming man is capable of enriching the English game in much the same way.

A doctor of philosophy, he is intent on improving the mental as well as the tactical, capabilities of last season's championship runners-up without detracting from the qualities instilled in them by Graham Taylor, his predecessor. "I want only to add, not to change," he insists.

Venglos, who is 53, also wants to repay a debt to the English game. "I have followed English football for many years as a player and as a coach, and I respect it," he said. "You are playing your style, but many good things we are able to take into our game. We have always been strong in individual creativity but not in defending. It was one of the reasons I came to study the training of Bill Shankly, Harry Catterick and Ron Greenwood. Now we are better at tackling and playing one against one. Therefore, we are now more competitive in Europe."

"Of course, I didn't come here to change things because, first, it's not possible and, second, your public want you to play the game you are playing. It's very interesting. But more of your clubs, like Liverpool and Arsenal, are

CLIVE WHITE

playing variations on the English game. They are mobile and creative. I like this."

"I want to add something from our training methodology into your game. Mostly, I want to improve the improvisation of players. Also, I want to improve their passing and encourage more interchange of position. These are qualities which already exist in countries like West Germany and France, but then the players there generally have more time than in the English game."

Time is something that neither English players, nor Venglos, have on their side. In a little over three weeks he has had to brush up his English, familiarise himself with the players, the backroom staff who have been retained, opposing teams, and not least Spaghetti Junction.

On his first morning it took him an hour and a half to negotiate a 20-minute journey from his West Bromwich hotel to the training ground. John Ward, the assistant manager, said: "We agreed not to fine him and he hasn't been late since."

Today, in his second match in charge, he finds himself thrown in at the deep end against Liverpool at Anfield. Villa, under Taylor, threw down the gauntlet to Liverpool there last season in a highly creditable 1-1 draw. Venglos is enough of a realist to appreciate that it will be difficult to maintain second spot this season.

However Villa fare in the League — and Taylor would have been hard pressed to match last season's placing — Venglos' European knowledge should count for something in the first round, where, as fate would have it, Villa play Banik Ostrava, the Czechoslovak side.

Even here, though, it will not be an easy start for Venglos, since Banik, as he pointed out, are a young team who have gained valuable experience from four successive seasons in Europe.

Any objections to a for-

mer being awarded a top managerial job in Britain seems churlish when the number of Britons who for years have been moving abroad to claim coaching positions with leading clubs is considered. So far, Venglos has met with no resentment, and was given a thunderous welcome by the Villa Park crowd last week at his first home game. His credentials are beyond reproach. Indeed, the only objection that the Football League Executives and Secretaries Association could have put forward was that, if anything, he is over-qualified for the job.

Rarely can any east European have been more widely travelled. Venglos, who speaks four languages, has visited more than 80 countries in connection with football. He has had two spells as manager of the Czechoslovak national team, and has also managed the Australian national side. He coached the Czechoslovak under-23 team to victory in the 1972 European championship, and as the manager of Slovan Bratislava he produced six members of the side which won the 1976 European championship, when he was also assistant national manager.

He looks forward to 1992 and a free Europe. "Many managers from England will go to Europe and I think some, I wouldn't say many, will come to England. There will be a greater exchange of players and ideas, which can only be good for football. The different styles will add something and make for a good blend, but I don't think they will change the overall personality of teams," he said.

But Venglos will find it difficult to impart his own ideas to players whose minds and bodies are already overloaded with competitive football.

In Czechoslovakia, the players train twice a day and are conveniently forced by climatic conditions to take a three-month winter break from competitive activity. On top of that, he may find the training and medical facilities of his native country hard to match. Venglos said: "It's going to be hard, I know. But I promised myself that I will fight and I will work."

Plenty to offer: Venglos has the will and the credentials to enrich the English game



TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

First division

Arsenal v Tottenham
Lingham, yet to start a League game for Arsenal following his transfer from Norwich, is included in the squad. Thomas is added to the 13 on duty during Tottenham's midweek draw at Sunderland.

Coventry v Nott'm Forest
Keith Thompson, a winner who has not featured in the first team since 1988, is poised to deputise should Smith (hamstring) fail to re-arrive.

Crystal Palace v Shrewsbury
Parker (knee operation) faces a late fitness test for QPR. Wegerle is expected to be fit to start.

Derby v Wimbledon
Watson, on loan from Liverpool, makes his Derby debut in central defence, with Forsyth reverting to left back. Farnsworth is fit again and could return for Wimbledon.

Leeds v Norwich
Jones is recalled by Davids. Fleck or Minett, aged 19, and yet to make his first team debut, could replace Crook (ankle) for Norwich. Culverhouse is also sidelined.

Southampton v Luton
With Casa having shagged off an injury, Southampton are unchanged. Black (thigh) faces a late fitness test for Luton; Rees, aged 19, stands by.

Sunderland v Man Utd
Hardyman (groin) is absent, so either Brady or Atkinson will deputise on the left of the defence for Sunderland. With McCullough to return to the midfield, United could introduce Robins and Beardmore, possibly at the expense of Incic and Beardmore.

Wigan v Macclesfield
Andersen (knee) is fit again and could return for Wigan.

Wimbledon v Chesterfield
Parker (knee operation) faces a late fitness test for QPR. Wegerle is expected to be fit to start.

Wolverhampton v Coventry
Cundy, making his debut, replaces Johnson in the Cheltenham defence.

Liverpool v Aston Villa
Liverpool, who are still without Hansen (knee), are expected to be unchanged. Villa are likely to keep the side which drew with Southampton last Saturday.

Man City v Everton
City retain the team that lost at Tottenham last week, with Reuben and Dicks on the bench. Everton hopeful Shanday will pass a late fitness test, but is still without Pearce, McCall, Snodin, and Beagle. Runcie, omitted for the first two matches, returns at the expense of either Keown or McDonald.

QPR v Chelsea
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Despite their wretched form in other competitions Northamptonshire can upset the favourites in the NatWest Trophy final

Erratic talents which threaten Lancashire

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE present a sorry sight as they confront the most formidable force in one-day cricket at Lord's today. Their season, both in the championship and the Sunday league, has been an unmitigated disaster. A shocking disciplinary record questions their leadership and they have key players injured. They will probably win easily.

It is not simply that the NatWest Trophy final is prone to outlandish results, though certainly it is. It is more that Northamptonshire are prone to extremes. They have been beaten by an innings five times in the championship, and finished bottom in the Sunday league, but no one seriously regards them as the worst team in the country.

At times, however, they can be the most spineless. When it comes to a baulk, they have the white flag permanently prepared; the long haul to safe trenches appears to fill them with horror. And yet, as Lancashire will be acutely aware this morning, they are capable of brilliance.

So far as winning this showpiece of the limited-overs

Lord's details

LANCASHIRE (probable): D. P. Hughes (capt), G. Fowler, R. D. Bailey, M. A. Morris, J. C. Atherton, M. Watkinson, W. Aslam, P. J. DeFreitas, M. Hogg, I. D. Austin, P. J. W. Allott.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: probably: A. J. Capel, A. Foster, N. A. Nelson, W. Larkins, D. J. Cloke, R. J. Bailey, R. G. Cook, M. Ripley, C. E. Lamb, N. G. Edwards, D. R. Stephenson, D. R. Hucker, D. R. Stephenson.

HOURS OF PLAY: 10.30 start: 80 overs.

TELEVISION COVERAGE: BBC2 15.35, 19.45 and 23.30 BST and BS2 16.00-19.45 (with传单). Tomorrow: Groundhand 10.15-18.20 (with传单).

season is concerned, they have certain persuasive credentials. They have been so wretched in the remaining competitions that their attention has been focused on the NatWest to the exclusion of all else; and, at least three of their players will have it in mind that a striking performance in this cup final has become a traditionally effective means of booking an England tour place.

Cras though it may be to allow any one-day game to sway a serious debate on Test match potential, it has occurred too many times to be thought a coincidence. If Ted Dexter and company find the mixture irresistible again, the incentive is there for Wayne Larkins, David Capel and even Rob Bailey.

For various reasons none of the three has featured in an England team since the Caribbean tour. Larkins has already taken a midweek opportunity to impress Graham Gooch, already one of his most ardent supporters, with a double-century against Essex and Bailey made a hundred in the same game. Capel provides the fitness drama, obligatory to any such occasion.

With many a cricketer, breaking a finger on a Monday would be sufficient to discount playing on the Tuesday cup final or not. With Capel, it will take more than a spot of medical advice and a lot of pain to keep him off the field. He will wear a special batting glove and he will have pain-killing injections. No one has ever accused him of surrendering to a lost cause.

Capel's problem is sometimes a surplus of misdirected enthusiasm, which might explain the unattractive words and gestures with which he greeted David Gower's dismissal in the semi-final. This is one of three public disciplinary matters that have affected Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire won their semi-final by one run, despite periodically looking anxious to give it to Hampshire. They will not survive such philistine urges

on public is a matter of how many rumours one believes. But it is unquestionable that the dressing-room has not been harmonious and that certain people within the club have favoured a different captain, or a cricket manager, or possibly both.

Allan Lamb's position as captain would have been precarious but for this cup run. Should his side win today, he will be fire-proof.

For that to happen, however, he not only has to concern himself with the might of the opposition but with extracting maximum potential from his some of his own erratic talents.

Curly Ambrose could be a match-winner; he has it in him to influence the game with the ball as much as his Lancashire counterpart, Wasim Akram. Greg Thomas, if he plays, is another with the speed to trouble anyone, but Mark Robinson is reliable and unsung, and I fancy Lamb will be looking to him for an example.

Northamptonshire won their semi-final by one run, despite periodically looking anxious to give it to Hampshire. They will not survive such philistine urges

against Lancashire, whose demolition of Middlesex, at the same stage, was awesome.

They have the most consistently prolific top order batting in the country, dasher such as Fowler and Fairbrother complementing the technical authority of Mendis and Atherton. Then, as interesting as anyone playing today, there is Mike Watkinson.

There has hardly been a knock-out game in Lancashire's season in which Watkinson has not played an influential role. He won the gold award in the Benson and Hedges Cup final and his bat will the Middlesex tie beyond doubt. If England are seeking a utility man for this winter, they could do a lot worse.

If this game has anything to do with form, then Lancashire will win. If it has anything to do with romance, then David Hughes, who played when Lancashire first won the competition 20 years ago, will lift the trophy again tonight to complete a unique cup double.

But the slumbering, squabbling sacrificial army which Northamptonshire all too often resemble, still have it in them to add a perverse twist to their moribund season.

ANTHONY PHILIP

Gooch profits again as records tumble and Essex go top

By RICHARD STREETON

NORTHAMPTON (final day of three): Northamptonshire (1st) drew with Essex (2nd). A SECOND hundred for Graham Gooch and other notable milestones failed to disguise that this was an unsatisfactory final day. A benign pitch, in fact, suited the captains' initiative throughout a match which was reduced to a batsman's bonanza. Essex, at least, had the consolation of moving to the top of the county championship table.

Essex now stand four points clear of Middlesex, and they remain the only teams, realistically, still in the hunt for the title. Each has three-four day matches left to play. By a quirk of the fixture computer, Essex and Northamptonshire meet again next Friday when the championship is resumed. Middlesex, that day, play Nottinghamshire at Lord's.

For there to be any chance of a result yesterday, the pitch had to deteriorate rapidly but this never looked likely. Northamptonshire, who resumed 125 runs ahead, with five wickets in hand, needed rapid runs in the hope of having themselves time to bowl out their opponents.

Their hopes, though, soon fizzled out. When Lamb early on lifted a catch to long-off, there was no one left who was

Lord's on Lancashire minds

By STEPHEN THORPE

Surrey opted for batting practice. The match thus was meaningless. Lancashire had more than a weather-eye on their early flight south for the NatWest Trophy final against Lancashire at Lord's today.

The bowlers had the opportunity to put some sea air in their bats but the fielding was less than supportive on a damp outfield.

Soon afterwards, Stephen

son was held at third man from a sliced drive and the game meandered to a draw.

Northamptonshire's total, incidentally, was their highest since they entered first-class cricket in 1905. Their previous best was 557 for six.

Northamptonshire were

592 for six, which put them 202 ahead. In the conditions, it did not seem enough for a win by an innings. As things turned out, Lamb condemned his bowlers to a long, pointless period in the field, which not all of them could have welcomed on the eve of the NatWest Trophy final.

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Braashee for triumphant return

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

HAVING won the Ormonde Stakes on his seasonal debut at Chester in May, Braashee now looks poised to make a triumphant return to the Roodeye today by capturing the Tricity Bendifx Sovereign Stakes over the same distance.

A week later, Braashee emulated Mountain Kingdom, who only a year before had become the first horse to win both the Ormonde and the Yorkshire Cup in the same season.

At York, the Alec Stewart-trained four-year-old accounted for Sapience, who was destined to pay him a nice compliment by winning the Princess of Wales' Stakes at Newmarket in July.



Stewart brings Braashee back at Chester (230)

His recent gallops there have been on watered ground and the way that he has gone has indicated that he is ready to make a successful comeback on a track which is likely to provide the best going in the country following rain in the north-west.

Sudden Victory, Hateel and Sesame are others who will relish the better ground.

Last autumn, Sudden Victory ran Sesame to a neck in the St Simon Stakes at Newbury. They meet on the same terms but Sesame has the better recently, finishing a good second to Charmer in the Geoffrey Frer Stakes, again at Newbury.

Hateel's well-earned promotion to listed race company went disastrously wrong at Goodwood last month when

he refused to let himself down in the very firm ground.

Earlier, he had worked his way up the ladder by winning valuable handicaps at Haydock, Newbury, Royal Ascot and Haydock again. At his best, he could prove troublesome since he will be getting 8lb from Braashee.

Dawn Success, from Clive Britain's Newmarket yard, appeals as a sporting bet to win the Tricity Bendifx Princess Handicap, even though his fifth behind Ned's Aura over nine furlongs at York last month is the best that he has done all season.

Having won over six furlongs at Thirsk last autumn, he could easily appreciate today's drop in distance.

Northern Conqueror, my choice for the Tricity Bendifx

Handicap, is the best chance for the Chester wining Widyan.

CHESTER

Selections

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

- 1.30 Dawn Success
- 2.30 Northern Conqueror
- 3.00 Brashee
- 3.00 Milligan
- 3.00 Sesame
- 3.30 Tiswa
- 4.00 Magic Spirit

Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 Brashee.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 MILLIGAN.

Going: good Draw: low numbers best in sprints SIS

1.30 TRICITY BENDIX PRINCESS HANDICAP (£5,388; 7f 122yds) (16 runners) [BBC1]

1 (1) 15-16 FORTRESS PORT (D.F.) (P) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
2 (1) 31-35 REFERENCE LIGHT (F) (D) (M) (G) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
3 (4) 155-162 GOLD MINEROS (D.F.,F,D) (A) (Christodoulou) G Harwood 6-9-2 A Clark 96
4 (8) 160-165 DAWN SUCCESS (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
5 (1) 1-41430 SHATTERED DREAMS (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
6 (8) 255-256 NORTHERN PRINTER (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
7 (1) 2-31122 BRAASHEE (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
8 (9) 21122 RUMBLE (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
9 (7) 21122 SUPER BENDIX 3 (D,F,L) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
10 (12) 225-244 TROPHY GIRL (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
11 (11) 325-348 MARCOPHIL 8 (F) (D) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
12 (12) 351-372 MACROPHIL 17 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
13 (13) 211122 SILENT JAY (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
14 (14) 2-322-322 SILENT JAY (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
15 (15) 1-41454 CHUMBUCK (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 100-110 W H Miles 96
Long handicap: Dundee 7-8.

NETTING: 5-1 Super Bars, 11-2 Gold Minories, 6-1 Heffinworth, 6-1 Casi-Jay-Jay, Marlor, Northern Star, 10-1 Dawn Success, 12-1 Betrayal, 13-1 Run, Wasil Port, 16-1 others.

TIME: DUNNES 4-13 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min

FORM FOCUS WASIL PORT reported when 12th, 16-15, 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min. REFERENCE LIGHT stayed well when 10th, 17-18, 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min. DAWN SUCCESS 10th well when 10th, 16-17, 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min. SHATTERED DREAMS 10th well when 10th, 16-17, 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min. NORTHERN PRINTER 10th well when 10th, 16-17, 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min. MARCOPHIL 10th well when 10th, 16-17, 100-100-100 (16-15) H Candy 15 min.

2.0 TRICITY BENDIX PRESIDENT NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,560) (7) (13 runners) [BBC1]

1 (6) 111 CAL NORMAN'S LADY 22 (D,F,M) (J Park) J Wilson 9-7 W R Edwards 96
2 (4) 111 BEYNORAH 10 (F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
3 (11) 31-35 MOMENTOPIRE 46 (F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
4 (6) 17-18 TROPHY GIRL 10 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
5 (7) 325-348 BRICKLE KINGSTON 22 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
6 (10) 200-205 JAMAICA JOE 19 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
7 (9) 41 CORINCH 17 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
8 (5) 2-322-11 MISS CALCULATE 17 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
9 (7) 200-221 ON STRIKE 22 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
10 (15) 1-41454 KARINA 22 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
11 (12) 21122 RUMBLE 18 (D,F) (M) (S) (H) (M) 9-7 W R Edwards 96
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MARK PEPPER

BRIEFING

Classic mix at St Tropez

CLASSIC yachts and state-of-the-art maxis will race in a mixture of pageantry and sport at La Nicouargue, the French regatta which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. From September 26 to October 7, the harbour and streets of St Tropez will be full of yachting enthusiasts.

Ten years ago, La Nicouargue was simply a small navigation buoy a dozen miles out of St Tropez which two skippers decided to race to, rather than spend another afternoon sampling Mount Gay rum.

It has grown to become a regatta that rivals Antigua Race Week or Cowes. This year, for the first time, Rothmans will sponsor the maxis trophy. The British entry from the round-the-world race will compete in Europe for the last time this year before leaving for Australia and the Far East.

Moor for less

The boating industry is examining the number and cost of moorings. A working party from the British Marine Industries Federation, the Royal Yachting Association and the Inland Waterways Association is anxious that the lack of suitable moorings might end the boom in boat sales.

Paul Wagstaffe, the BMIF chief executive, says: "As a first step, the group is conducting a survey aiming to determine the existing situation with a view to convincing government of the need to encourage the provision of more and better facilities."

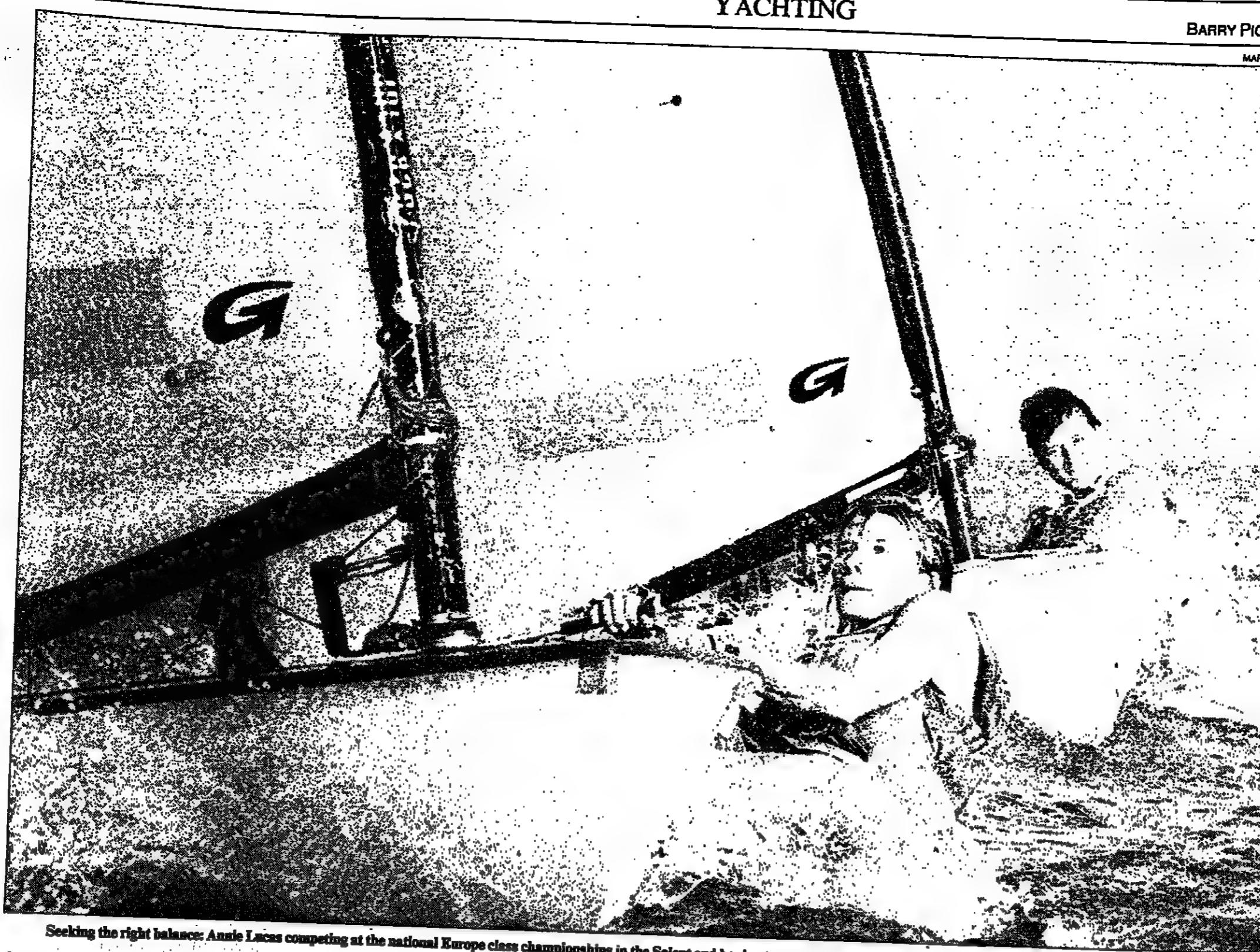
Sailing free

The Westerly sea school says it can cover sailing costs with a new scheme for boat owners. Ian Steel, Westerly's managing director, says: "We can supply and manage a Westerly which could provide cost-free sailing for the owner. By marketing the yacht for charter and sailing courses throughout the year, it would be possible to offset all the annual running and maintenance costs and still leave a surplus for the owner." Mr Steel can be contacted on 0703 454863 for more details.

Personality class

The Royal Lymington Yacht Club will host the national match-racing championship finals, sponsored by James Capel on Saturday, September 22. The 18 competitors are a mixture of invited personalities, such as Tim Law and David Bedford, plus the winners and runners-up of the regional qualifying heats.

The races will be sailed in Beneteau First Class 8s. With the 1992 Olympic finals of the Soling class to be run as match-racing for the first time, these national championships have increasing significance.



Seeking the right balance: Annie Lucas competing at the national Europe class championships in the Solent and hoping to represent Britain in the first women's single-handed Olympic event in 1992

Top women take to Europe for 1992

A small group of women are forsaking their Le-sens, 470s, National 12s and university racing teams to sail the Europe dinghy and win the first single-handed Olympic gold for women in 1992. They will have to take on a new lifestyle of dedication and sacrifice and the small, lively Europe will be their workplace for the next two years.

Last weekend marked the Europe national championship at Hamble. For most it was a typical weekend of six races, each longer than an average marathon. Shirley Robertson and Tracey Jordan, the two favourites, are in their early twenties, single-minded, and physically fit.

By 1992 they will be as finely tuned as any athlete, and possess an impressive armoury of tactical moves and countermoves, plus an ingrained knowledge of every

whim of tide and windshift off the shores of Barcelona. They will need a killer instinct because sailing, as Jordan says, "like chess with physical pain".

Both women are prepared to abandon social lives, interrupt their careers and fall into debt with banks and families for the chance to represent Britain in 1992. To win a medal they know that they will have to sail every day and put in hours of muscle-building at the gym.

Jordan plans to take time out of her medical studies. She already misses doctors' mess parties on Thursday nights to be fit for the weekend's racing.

Robertson is a little blonde with a sparkling smile and gentle Scottish tilt. She is determined not simply to win the British trials, but to bring home a medal. Once a fortnight, sometimes more often, she makes the eight-hour over-

night journey from Glasgow to the south coast to fight for a place in international championships. Both she and Jordan are in Spain this weekend at the pre-Olympic racing for the first time, Sarah Norbury writes

winter Lucas will be posted back to Gosport, where her training will be pushed into overdrive with the help of her fiancé, Steve Cockerill, the overall winner at Hamble.

The women's national champion is Kay Hedgecock, at 26 a veteran of Olympic campaigning. The table at the Europe championships at Hamble groaned with glittering prizes, but Hedgecock was off before the presentation, en route for Spain and the Mediterranean championships.

The fleet of more than 30 Olympic hopefuls is settling down into distinct groups: those who have a chance and those who will keep competing for fun. Some

have dropped out of the running due to career commitments and others are not prepared to put intolerable strain on relationships.

The worries include getting time off for overseas regattas, lonely drives to frozen Rutland Water for winter training, coping with the expense, and making the choice between a new hull and a new car.

There is also the physical unpleasance of being out at sea, upside down, cut and bruised. The ability to take the strain separates the ambitious from the also-rans.

One stormy weekend as I sat in Hayling Island Sailing Club bar, nursing a fear of drowning and a bump on the head, administered by the ridiculously low boom (it takes the suppleness of a limbo dancer to traverse a Europe in a tack or gybe), I bounced a freezing and dripping Jordan. She was new to the class and had just made her first foray across the

notorious Chichester sandbank. "I capsized 15 times," she said. She has the right attitude. A couple of months later she won every race but one in the 1990 British Eurolymp.

"What is the No. 1 factor that will win the Europe gold medal?" I asked Rod Carr, the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) chief coach. "Commitment," he replied. The RYA can provide coaching, advice on the fastest gear, help with boat tuning, seminars on tactics, fitness testing and a certain amount of grant aid, but it is an individual commitment, harnessed to a natural talent, that will make best use of all these factors.

To the club sailor this level of commitment may seem admirable, extraordinary or horrifying, but for these women, for the next two years, it will be their way of life.

Face that launched 200 ships

Adrian Morgan meets an engineer who gave up his career to make boats in the shed at the bottom of his garden



Carving out a career: Peter Ward working on another model in his garden shed

PETER WARD carves a solid living out of scraps of timber, old dance floors, broken pianos and Victorian skirting boards. Two years ago he turned his hobby of making half models of yacht hulls into a full-time job.

With Radio 4 for company, the former engineer works in his shed at the bottom of the garden, often for eight hours a day, and his output is limited to two models a week at most. A small routing machine and bandsaw, a row of chisels, glass paper and polish are his principal tools.

Born into a nautical family, and a descendant of the great marine artist John Ward of Hull, Mr Ward is obsessed by ships and the sea. He has cruised and raced for many years and has owned a variety of wooden craft.

"I was just old enough to recall the smell of Stockholm tar and to have witnessed the building of beautiful wooden vessels in draughty old tin sheds filled with sweet-smelling wood shavings by woodworkers along the river creeks," he says.

Mr Ward's craft is based on a tradition stretching back 200 years to the days when boat builders worked not from lines, but from offsets taken from half models. Each would be carved to the satisfaction of the client, fisherman or merchant, and subtly worked until it looked right from every angle. Thus no two craft were alike, each reflecting the owner's prejudices.

Unlettered and self-taught as these businessmen were, it

was possibly easier for both sides to assess the final product by eye. The famous black schooner, America, was probably built this way and even the greatest 19th century experts such as Nat Herreshoff preferred to work from models.

Mr Ward is not unique in his craft. Over the Channel, the revival of interest in traditional boats has encouraged a number of French modellers. Mr Ward, however, is one of a handful who manage to combine accuracy with that indefinable quality of "rightness". This has much to do with the choice of woods and the quality of finish and, strange though it may seem, it is the imperfections which gives the work artistry.

His favoured wood is Cuban mahogany. He has a magnificent piece, which came from the Classification Room of the old Lloyd's building in London when it was demolished in 1969, stacked in his shed in Poole. It was once part of a table on which surveyors would plan plans of new ships and around

which they would gather before giving their approval.

Starting with the line plans, culled from various sources — including original designs where possible — Ward will "blow" these up to the required scale and trace the half-waterlines on to templates.

Once chosen, the timber is machined to the exact thickness between the waterlines and bandsawn to the correct shape. "It's going to be a painted model. I use jeluton, a stable Malaysian wood they use for pattern-making."

The laminations are glued together and a chisel taken to the edges until a rough shape emerges. Painstaking rubbing down and application of strakes, deck gear, bowsprit, mast, boom and other details are the prelude to a final polish before the board is mounted on a mahogany back-board, with the vessel's details stencilled in gold-leaf or painted.

Mr Ward's collection comprises about 200 commissions, the most popular being the great pre-war yachts, the J's and America's Cup chal-

lengers and defenders such as Genesta, Ranger, Endeavour, Reliance and, of course, the most successful and charismatic of them all, the Prince of Wales's old yacht, Britannia.

"No vessel is too small or too large. I have modelled everything from the little Dublin Bay A-class, designed by William Fife, to the 1983 America's Cup winner Australia II," he says.

"It's difficult to strike the right price. It depends on size and how much work is involved. My charge for a large one like Britannia would be about £300. Special commissions would be more, as I have to prepare drawings."

He knows of some dealers in France who have little difficulty marking up prices by more than 100 per cent. Until word of his skill reaches a wider audience Mr Ward relies on galleries and dealers, although he hopes eventually to deal directly with his customers.

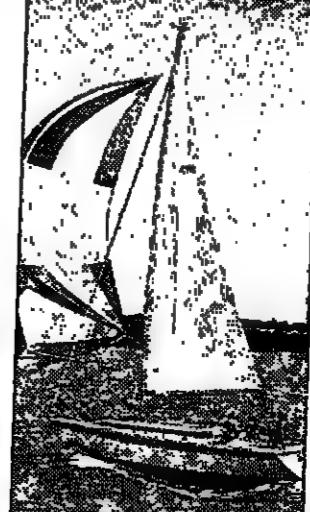
For details: Peter Ward, 31 St Mary's Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2LH (0202 672823).

Adrian Morgan finds the Westerly Typhoon 37 safe, but slippery, on a boat test

A solid cruiser, but with sparkle



The Typhoon 37: "It will appeal to those people who don't think a cruiser can be fast"



quite happily cruise the Mediterranean.

Massive stainless steel chainplates, firmly anchored into the yacht's structure, attest to the strength of the Lloyd's-approved hull.

The chart table takes a folded Admiralty chart. It is smaller than a dedicated navigator might prefer, but he would be impressed by the switch panel. This includes a very useful battery-state indicator. The gallery opposite has a fridge and double sink, with footpump in case the pressurised hot and cold water system fails.

The aft quarter of the yacht contains the huge main cabin, with its shower room to starboard, though not connected. The black buttoned vinyl sofa to port seemed a little out of place, and it is debatable how often it would be used but the cabin is extensive, if lacking in headroom. Stowage is also limited.

From her bathing platform to her sturdy bow rollers the Typhoon combines solid British yacht building with continental flair. "She's not only built for the good times," Mr Baines says, "but won't let you down in mid-Channel in a full gale." At £63,990 ex-VAT, she compares favourably with anything continental builders can throw at our shores.

WESTERLY TYPHOON

Length overall: 11.39m (37.3ft)

Length waterline: 9.71m (31.9ft)

Breadth: 3.75m (12.3ft)

Draught: 1.83m (6ft)

Displacement: 7,470kg (6,050lb)

Engine: Volvo Penta 28hp (43hp option)

Berths: 7/8

Sail area: 63m² (678.2 sq ft)

Designer: Ed Dubois

Builder: Westerly Yachts Limited (Sales), Hamble Port Marina, Hamble, Southampton, Hants SO3 5NB (0703 455223)

Price: £63,990 (ex VAT)

City Editor John Bell

BUSINESS

BCCI bankers seek retrial

FIVE officers of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and a Colombian businessman found guilty of money laundering have requested a new trial, claiming jury misconduct (APF reports from Tampa, Florida).

The six filed the request on Tuesday, claiming US district judge William Terrell Hodges should have done more to determine whether jurors had been influenced by an incident that led to one of the jurors being dismissed. The juror was dismissed after calling a telephone number of a reputed member of the Medellin cocaine cartel, which he found in a notebook introduced as evidence.

The five officers of BCCI, which is based in Luxembourg, and the Colombian were convicted on July 29 of laundering \$14 million in drug profits.

They face prison terms of between 10 and 30 years, possibly without parole. Sentencing is scheduled for October 3.

The bankers are Ian Howard and Sible Hassan of BCCI's Paris branch; Amjad Awan and Akbar Bilgrami of BCCI's Miami branch; and Seyed Afshar Hussain, who worked in Panama for the bank. The Colombian is Rudolf Arnschreit, an aircraft broker.

Another loss for Standard

Standard Chartered Bank Australia reported a net loss of Aus\$49.05 million (£20.9 million) in the six months to June 30. The result compares with a Aus\$16.1 million loss for the corresponding period last year and a 1989 full-year loss of Aus\$54.18 million.

Australian Ratings recently downgraded the bank's credit rating, lowering its short-term rate from A1 to A2 and its long-term rate from A minus to BBB plus. The pre-tax result and abnormal items was Aus\$13.65 million, against Aus\$28.55 million previously. Elvin Knox, the managing director of SCB, said provisions for bad and doubtful debts totalled Aus\$8.15 million (Aus\$32-million). An interim dividend was not declared.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8830 (-0.0280)
W German mark
2.9833 (-0.0253)
Exchange Index
95.0 (-1.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1693.6 (+5.7)
FT-SE 100
2162.8 (+9.2)
New York Dow Jones
2802.72 (+8.40)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
25978.37 (+308.41)
Closing Prices ... Page 35

Major Indices and major changes

Page 33
INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank 14.5%
3-month eligible bids: 14.5%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federated Funds: 10.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.0%
30-year bonds 9.7%
9.7%

CURRENCIES

London:
US: \$1.8930
E: 1.8225
D: 1.9233
S: 5.5755
SwF: 2.4760
F: 2.9974
Yen: 272.12
C: 1.4010
ECU: 1.6077
Ecu: 1.43591
L: 1.38639

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM 338.10 pm: £387.75
close: £385.00-385.50 (£203.50-
294.00)
New York:
Comex: \$384.30-384.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) ... £26.40/bbl (£26.05)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys Bank Sales
Australia \$ 2.44 2.28
Austria Sch. 2.40 2.20
Belgium Fr. 62.80 59.80
Carib S. 2.278 2.148
Denmark Kr. 1.65 1.50
Finland Mk. 7.31 6.81
France Fr. 10.35 9.75
Germany Dm. 1.38 1.25
Greece Dr. 2.55 2.03
Hong Kong \$ 15.30 14.40
Iceland Pt. 1.53 1.43
Ireland Lr. 2.20 2.16
Japan Yen 267.50 270.50
Netherlands Gld. 3.475 3.275
Norway Kr. 6.75 6.10
Portugal Esc. 2.73 2.47
South Africa R. 5.25 4.75
Spain Pes. 191.50 179.50
Sweden Nkr. 10.50 10.00
Switzerland Fr. 2.56 2.40
Turkey Lira 5.225 4.625
United Kingdom £ 1.000 950
Yugoslavia Drv. 25.50 19.50

Rates for small denominations bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.

Retail Price Index: 125.8 (Aug)

Bond denies receiving 'secret fee' for Rothwells role

From BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

ALAN BOND, the troubled Australian businessman, has protested a finding that he received Aus\$16 million (£5.8 million) for his part in the rescue of Rothwells, the former merchant bank, in October 1987.

Malcolm McCusker QC, said in his report into the 1988 collapse of Rothwells that Mr Bond had demanded and been paid the secret "rescue fee" for his company's part in the bail-out.

The 500-page McCusker report into Rothwells was released this week under parliamentary privilege.

Mr Bond said in a statement issued last night: "I wish to place on record my denial of the findings by Malcolm McCusker in relation to the so-called success fee."

Neither I nor Bond Corp, nor any Bond company, received a success fee from Rothwells in relation to the first Rothwells rescue. I have consistently maintained this, and the accounts of all relevant entries will show this.

"Unfortunately, Mr McCusker con-

ducted his enquiry in a manner which denied people like myself the opportunity of finally answering the conclusions he reached. He has accepted prepared written evidence from government ministers and preferred it to oral evidence of witnesses like myself under interrogation."

According to the report, Mr Bond "arranged" Rothwells to buy Bond Corp Holdings shares in 1988, as a condition of extending a credit facility provided to a company associated with Laurie Connell, Rothwells' founder and chairman.

The report states Rothwells lost about Aus\$2.2 million on the alleged deal. It is one of several transactions involving both public and private companies associated with Mr Bond mentioned in the report.

As well as the BCI share of Rothwells' lost about Aus\$2.2 million on the alleged deal. It is one of several transactions involving both public and private companies associated with Mr Bond mentioned in the report.

When Rothwells sold the Endeavour shares - "at the request of Dallhold" -

Dallhold "called upon" it to account for a share of the profit.

The report discloses that "more detailed accounts" of both the BCI and Endeavour share transactions have been included in part two of the report, with Mr McCusker's opinions. Part two is the confidential volume of the McCusker report, not released for legal reasons.

The BCI share transaction is traced to a credit facility provided by Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie to Paragon Resources soon after the first Rothwells rescue in October 1987.

GMK was then controlled by Dallhold and through Dallhold by Mr Bond. The facility entitled Paragon to draw commercial bills endorsed by GMK, and accepted by Rothwells, up to a value of Aus\$50 million.

Meanwhile, the former company secretary of Rothwells was jailed yesterday for three years on charges of stealing cheques worth more than Aus\$9 million and on improper use of his position. Thomas Forrest Hugall, aged 52, was told by Chief Judge Heenan in the Perth District Court:

"It seems you regarded the companies in the group and their assets as if they belonged to you."

The Hugall case was one of the reasons the government of Western Australia delayed the publication of the McCusker report until this week.

The government's legal advice was that the report should not be published until Hugall's trial had ended. It did so last week after a 12-day hearing. Within minutes of the sentencing, Hugall's lawyers returned to court, asking for more time to prepare for a preliminary hearing of ten separate charges against their client in relation to Rothwells.

In the Perth Magistrate's Court, Colin Boys, a magistrate, rejected the application but indicated he might defer the hearing for up to a month if one of Hugall's co-defendants - a Brisbane chartered accountant and Rothwells' auditor, Louis Carter - lodges a similar application when he makes his first appearance on October 2.

Hugall and Mr Carter are charged with two co-defendants, Mr Connell and Peter

Lucas, a former Rothwells director (who is not the Bond Corp Holdings director of the same name). The four face several charges relating to Rothwells, which collapsed in 1988 with losses of more than Aus\$20 million. They are each charged with four counts of making false statements in Rothwells' annual reports under Section 420 of the Criminal Code.

They are also charged with conspiring to defraud the public by concealing and falsely portraying the true financial position of Rothwells under Section 412 of the Criminal Code.

Hugall has been separately charged with 14 counts of improperly using his position as an officer of a company. These charges came up for mention yesterday and were adjourned to a date to be fixed.

In the District Court yesterday, Hugall, a practising accountant for more than 20 years, was jailed for one year on the improper use of his position as a company officer and three years on the nine charges of stealing cheques. The sentences are to be served concurrently.

Tiphook pays £19m for trailers

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

YORK Trailer, Britain's leading trailer manufacturer, is pulling out of trailer rental by selling its United Rentals fleet to Tiphook, the transport and distribution group, for £19.5 million in cash.

The deal makes Tiphook's Central Trailer Rental subsidiary the leader in trailer rental in Britain where it has been neck and neck with TIP Europe.

Tiphook is acquiring about 2,850 trailers, including container carriers and refrigerated trailers. About 2,000 are in Britain with the rest in the Benelux countries.

Tiphook's British trailer fleet will now number about 18,000. It will have another 10,000 abroad.

The company is seeking to increase its presence on the continent. A United Germany will have huge potential for trailer rental, said Eric Goodwin, Tiphook's deputy chairman.

York decided to sell the United Rentals fleet, ranked tenth in the British rental market, to concentrate on manufacturing. The company accounts for about 28 per cent of the British market.

York Trailer, based at Corby, Northants, was bought from Buzzi by its management in 1988.



Last orders: Peter Greenall announces the closures of the Greenall Whitley breweries yesterday

Philips 'will stop microchip making'

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

PHILIPS is to abandon microchip manufacturing and pull out of Europe's most prestigious microchip co-operation programme, Jessi, according to a report in *NRC Handelsblad*, the respected Dutch newspaper.

Philips' fortunes have taken a dive in recent months because of problems at its computer and electronic components divisions. Speculation centred on Jessi, which has a strong connection with Greenall which brews Jessi's beer under licence in Britain. There are also believed to be talks with Wolverhampton and Dudley, another regional brewer.

But these talks failed because, as Andrew Thomas, Jessi's managing director, explained, it would have meant being tied to taking too much beer from a single source limiting Greenall's flexibility to do what it most wanted - offering a portfolio of strong brands in its houses.

Greenall sales have sagged through lack of strong brands, especially in lager. Now it plans to offer not only its own ales, but Tetley's and Castlemead XXXXX from Allied Lyons, Carling Black Label and Stones from Bass, and Stella Artois from Whitbread. Other deals may involve Theakston of Scottish & Newcastle and Boddingtons from Whitbread.

There are plans to develop the Wilderspool brewery site at Warrington over the next three to five years with a combination of retailing, offices and housing, and Greenall will retain a headquarters there. The Nottingham site is in an industrial area and will be used for warehousing and distribution although there could be some office development. Greenall also has development plans for its Davenport, Birmingham, site. About 250 people are ex-

pecting to take voluntary redundancy and retirement by the time the two breweries close. Worker reaction was nevertheless strong.

Jeff Joyce, Warrington district secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, said: "This is devastating news. We don't think the company has taken its responsibilities to employees seriously enough." Councillor John Cartside, deputy leader of Warrington Borough Council, said: "The closure will damage the town's economy."

For 12 months Greenall has been talking to a number of potential buyers of the breweries. Speculation centred on Jessi, which has a strong connection with Greenall which brews Jessi's beer under licence in Britain. There are also believed to be talks with Wolverhampton and Dudley, another regional brewer.

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£5m rights to fund changes

By MATTHEW BOND

WESTMINSTER & Country Properties, the property company that wants to become a continental leisure group, is to raise £5.5 million through a rights issue to help finance its change of direction. It also plans to change its name to Arctis International.

According to *NRC Handelsblad*, Philips will pull out of Jessi, the Joint European Submicron Silicon project, a four-year programme aimed at developing microchips and other electronic components will suffer a severe setback.

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The balance is held by European governments and institutions.

The total cost of the programme has so far been £2.5 billion. The impact of Philips' possible withdrawal from the programme remains uncertain.

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Jail is life

City investors have rightly complained that many of the companies they invest in have not looked after their shareholders in terms of dividend rises, at least until the past few years. The big composite general/life insurance companies, themselves heavy investors in equities, have now taken their own advice by declaring dividend increases mostly above 10 per cent even when their first-half results have shown either huge losses or, as at Commercial Union, too little profit to cover the payment.

Leaving aside the comparison with pay settlements, politically sensitive but not really appropriate, the question is whether they can afford to keep faith with investors and thereby express confidence in the future. On present figures they probably can, though investment values are under pressure and, aside from the exceptional January storm losses, there are few signs of the insurance cycle turning up.

Christopher Pountain, insurance analyst at Morgan Stanley, reckons most have a solvency margin between shareholders' funds and non-life premium income either side of 60 per cent, against a legal minimum of 16 per cent and an anxiety level of about 30 per cent. Sun Alliance, which is about to end the reporting season, has a much stronger balance sheet, while Royal has a solvency margin down at 44 per cent and appropriately declared a much lower dividend rise.

Insurance companies do not consistently follow their own advice on balance sheets. In the endless debates on relations between the City and industry, institutional investors have long said companies should tell their shareholders as much as possible about long-term prospects and values, so that these can be built into the share price. There is no point coming up with hidden jewels once a bid is on the table.

For the composite companies, the biggest jewel is a valuation of their life assurance businesses, though some try much harder than most specialist life insurers.

Royal has put an "embedded" valuation of its life contracts in its balance sheet since 1983. In 1989, this accounted for 120p of asset value of 546p per share. Royal estimates that valuing its life business as a going concern would add "at least" a further 129p per share. Efforts are also made at Commercial Union and Sun Alliance, but not at General Accident and Guardian Royal Exchange, which have smaller life businesses.

Under the wary eye of the Prudential, the Association of British Insurers is working on a standard, to apply equally to specialist life companies, whose accounts are particularly opaque.

Competitive self-interest should provide a better result. The guideline is simple. Shareholders should be told clearly in the annual report what value directors would put on their life business in the event of a hostile bid.

The same test should apply to investment trusts, institutional investors under constant threat of takeover. Globe, the biggest, fell to a pension fund bid because big shareholders did not really believe the sudden uplift to what was termed "total value" in its defence document.

Harmish Buchan, doyen of trust analysis, reckons that in more regulated days there were up to 32 possible variants of a trust's value. The balance sheet is a place for formal caution.

Shareholders should be told what would be claimed in the event of a bid. Setting the goods in the window is part of keeping faith with shareholders all the time.

Potting black

The sentences handed down after the Guinness trial, exemplary but inappropriate, have raised the spirits of the Serious Fraud Office and taken the heat off DTI ministers anxious to appear tough. But it was not really a good week for just, swift and efficient regulation.

The lessons of the Guinness case, for conduct in takeover bids, were learned by practitioners and regulators years ago.

The same applies to the classic PCW fraud at Lloyd's and the complex pre-1982 circumstances at Alexander Howden, on which two voluminous reports by DTI inspectors were finally published. In the PCW case, where the two

fraudsters had flown to the United States, arrest warrants were issued days after the time limit for extradition ran out.

Inspectors in the Howden case, who submitted their report in 1985, accuse its former chairman of crimes for which he has since been tried and wholly acquitted. They also make accusations of false accounting and other breaches of company law for which nobody will be prosecuted. Even though justified, the issues were too complex for some experts to be sure, let alone a jury. Delays were caused by duplication that has grown worse.

Peter Liley, the trade secretary, was left to apply for disqualification as directors of three of those involved with PCW, an empty gesture. In the House of Fraser case, where these executive powers might have carried some weight, no action was taken. In their spheres, the securities industry and Lloyd's can now deal quickly and fittingly with miscreants. The DTI should give such bodies greater powers and learn from them in its own sphere of company regulation.

Rumour of imminent ERM move leads to slump in sterling

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

STERLING slumped on a rumour that the government planned to join the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System this weekend at a rate of DM2.95. Fears of a rise in German interest rates after the Japanese increase, combined with profit-taking after the latest sharp rises, pushed sterling well below DM3.

At its lowest point of 94.6 on the effective rate index, the pound was 1.6 below the previous close. This fall equalled that on the day after Nigel Lawson resigned as chancellor in October. Sterling recovered, partially as the Bank of England entered the market to support the currency, undermining the ERM speculation.

By the close in London the pound's average value was down 1.2 at 95. It had fallen 2.8 cents to \$1.8930 and 2.5 cents to DM2.9833. In the past two days sterling has fallen 1.8, but is still significantly above the closing level of 93.9 on August 1 before the Gulf crisis. It is 11 per cent higher than this year's low the day after the Budget, when it opened at 85.3.

Sterling was also affected by a strengthening of the dollar as

traders closed short positions before a long weekend extended by Labor Day. Dealers were anxious not to be short of dollars when war could break out in the Middle East.

City economists said the fall in sterling made an interest rate cut even less likely. In the money market, rates rose by 1/4 per cent to 15.14% per cent.

Peter Spence of Shearson Lehman said: "I do not think there is any question that the chancellor will stand firm on interest rates. Even a small cut ahead of the wage round would give quite the wrong signal. The fall in the pound simply strengthens the argument for interest rates to stay at 15 per cent."

In foreign exchange markets we are entering a more mature phase in which there may be as many down days as up days, but I expect to see the pound move tentatively back through DM3 again."

Financial markets believe the fall in the mark against the dollar and yen this week has brought an increase in German rates much closer. Provisional figures for inflation show a sharp rise in events in the Gulf, with prices up 2.9 per cent in the year to August

Stock markets, page 34

Japanese to open £1.1m golf factory

JAPAN'S Mizuno Corporation, the world's biggest manufacturer of sports goods, is opening a £1.1 million factory in Scotland to make golf clubs.

It will create 30 jobs, rising to about 45 after 18 months, at Cumbernauld near Glasgow.

Production is to start in December, with 240,000 clubs due to be made in the first 12 months. Mizuno, keen to increase its 13 per cent of the European market, has expansion plans for the 3.5-acre Scottish site.

Sales worldwide for Mizuno top £50 million a year and it has seven foreign subsidiaries, including one in France.

Reed in US deal

Reed Publishing (USA), the American subsidiary of Reed International is buying First Marketing Corporation, one of the largest publishers of custom newsletters in America, for an undisclosed sum. FMC publishes newsletters for more than 400 corporations in the financial, healthcare, travel and other markets. The group, which had a revenue for 1989 of \$9 million, has grown at a rate of 31.5 per cent over the last three years.

Clearmark rises

Clearmark Group, the listed securities market leisure and publishing company formally known as Fergabrook, increased pre-tax profits by 40 per cent to \$220,000 in the six months to June 30. Richard King, the chairman, predicted "satisfactory" trading for the rest of the year if current economic conditions continue. The company, which paid no dividend last year, is not recommending an interim dividend, but is considering a final dividend.

GEC assets sale

Morris Ashby, the diecasting and machining group, has bought the die-casting and machining assets of GEC Alsthom (M&D), a subsidiary of GEC, for £357,000 cash. Of the total consideration, £107,000 is deferred for two years. The deal will add about £1 million to Morris Ashby's annual turnover.

Issue fails

Perkins Foods, the food processor and distributor, has seen its £29.8 million convertible preference issue, put in place in July to fund the acquisition of two Dutch companies, fail with just 10 per cent take-up. Perkins shares fell 3p to 110p. The company reports interim figures on Monday.

Key: Local currency.

Plaxton warns of decline

JOHN CHAPMAN

PLAXTON Group, the Hertford motor coach and coach building concern, is likely to report lower profits for the 12 months to end-December but expects to maintain the year's dividend, according to David Matthews, chairman.

He blames trading conditions and interest rates for the caution, adding: "I find it difficult to find much to grim about in the short term."

Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-June rose from £3.7 million to £5.21 million, but include £2.44 million from business disposals.

The interim dividend has been held at 3p, payable from net earnings per share of 10.9p (£1.1p). The group's tax charge fell from 34.5 per cent to 20.6 per cent.

High interest rates, coinciding with unusually high vehicle stocks, hit the coach and bus division. The motor division traded satisfactorily. Three loss-making dealerships were closed and two others were sold. Heals performed well despite an 11 per cent fall in new car purchases.

"The board is confident of being able to maintain the final dividend (5.5p), provided that present trading circumstances do not materially worsen," says the group.

At June 30, gearing was 45.6 per cent compared with 37.6 per cent at the end of 1989, and net asset value per share was 15.5p compared with 14.7p six months earlier.

Taking stock: chairman David Matthews yesterday

Parkfield creditors' committee

By ANGELA MACKAY

ABOUT 600 creditors of Parkfield Group, the collapsed entertainment and engineering conglomerate, yesterday approved proposals put forward by the administrators and formed a creditors' committee to oversee asset sales.

A meeting at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham was told by Cork Gully, the administrator, that about half the group's assets had gone forever. The 11,000 creditors are owed £309 million. The administrator also implied there will be nothing for shareholders in the video group.

Creditors questioned the negative net assets of £27 million without substantial write-offs in the accounts. At the start of the year, Parkfield was capitalised at £263 million, or 518p a share, compared with 48p, implying a value of £24 million, when the stock was suspended in July.



CLK buys bulk of Michael Peters

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

The bulk of the British assets of Michael Peters Group, the designer that went into receivership last week, have been bought by Craton Lodge & Knight, the unlisted securities market product developer, for £575,000.

Michael Peters, founder of the business, is to receive £150,000 and a 12-month rolling contract at CLK with no salary. Stephen Bennett, CLK's chairman, said one of the company's assets was Mr Peters, his name, contacts and abilities and the £150,000 payment was to secure that asset.

CLK is acquiring Michael Peters Brand Development, Michael Peters Corporate Identity and Michael Peters Literature. It is not buying the retail design business or Diagnostics, its research business. CLK is paying £25,000 for stock, work, and contracts in progress.

CLK has agreed to pay out £100,000 for the leasehold on the group's London property. The businesses will become a subsidiary of CLK called Michael Peters Limited.

As part of the agreement, certain Michael Peters executives will subscribe for 25 per cent of MPL. They may also buy a further 10 per cent if MPL pre-tax profits exceed £2 million in any of the three years to September 30, 1997.

Peters: no pay cut

Lilley overturns OFT approval of French stake buy

Woodchester anger at referral

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WOODCHESTER Investments, the Irish leasing company, has reacted angrily to the decision by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to refer the acquisition of a 45.4 per cent stake in the group by Crédit Lyonnais, the state-owned French bank, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Lilley overturned two recommendations by the Office of Fair Trading to approve the deal. His decision will deprive Woodchester of an Ir£100 million (£89 million) cash injection and cost it Ir£250,000 a week in lost interest while it waits for the MMC's verdict, due in December.

Dan O'Connor, Woodchester's finance director, said the decision had hit the group like a thunderbolt. "There is no way this transaction comes within any parameter of a referral. We just don't have a market share in Britain."

The referral follows the British government's statement in July that it would pay close attention to the degree of state control in an acquiring company. Lyonnais is 60 per cent state-owned. The government is now treating all companies controlled by the same government as a single group in MMC's referrals.

for Forward Trust or Mercantile, the leasing companies being sold by Midland and Barclays. It was previously thought to be a leading candidate.

Woodchester is registered in Ireland, but has nine subsidiaries in Britain and a 29.9 per cent stake in Lookers, the motor dealer, which sells its credit facilities. Mr O'Connor said Woodchester and its solicitors would consider ways to complete the deal even if blocked by the MMC.

Crédit Lyonnais bought a 29.9 per cent stake in Woodchester from British & Commonwealth in December, and agreed to pay Ir£100 million to increase its stake to 45 per cent. The deal was approved by Woodchester's shareholders in July, and cleared by the OFT, the Irish industry department and the Dublin stock exchange.

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The DTI statement said Mr Lilley

made his decision after considering the implications of Woodchester falling under the influence of a state-controlled bank. "The fact that the French government controls or influences other financial institutions operating in the UK raised issues of public interest," it said.

MMC referrals normally occur when a company has more than quarter of the British market. Woodchester, whose business is split equally between Britain and Ireland, has less than 1 per cent of the British leasing and instalment credit markets and only 3 per cent of office equipment leasing, its speciality.

"We have negotiated a good deal and we want it completed," said Mr O'Connor. Woodchester's shares are trading at Ir162p, 20 per cent below the Ir202p price Lyonnais agreed to pay.

Two Lyonnais executives have joined Woodchester's board. One, Jean-Claude Gouber, said he was surprised by the referral, which seemed to be political. "We have consistently said that the French government is not involved in the running of the bank. It is a majority shareholder but it does not make the decisions," he said.

	MAJOR CHANGES	MAJOR INDICES
RISSES:		New York: 2,602.72 (+9.40*)
BIGC	260p (+12p)	Tokyo: 1,748.00 (-10.00)
Univac	2,110p (+120p)	Nikkei Average: 2,597.83 (+308.41)
Genetics	711p (+20p)	Hong Kong: 3,067.50 (+23.31)
Whitbread 'A'	435p (+10p)	Singapore: 1,100.00 (+10.00)
Racial Telecom	290p (+130p)	Amsterdam: 1,070.00 (+10.00)
Dalegate	357p (+11p)	CBS Tendency: 102.3 (-0.41)
Poppy Pack	291p (+10p)	Sydney: 150.6 (+3.6)
Bowater	501p (+100p)	Toronto: 1,625.51 (+9.44)
Sotheby's	687p (+75p)	Frankfurt: DAX: 1,020.00 (+10.00)
Enterprise	665p (+14p)	Toulouse: 1,000.00 (+10.00)
Ultramar	355p (+10p)	General: 500.12 (-16.76)
Rothmans 'B'	705p (+25p)	Paris: CAC: 454.43 (-0.43)
Altin Investors	183p	Zurich: S&P Gen: 557.1 (+0.4)
Paramount	285p (+20p)	London: FT - A All-Share: 1,051.08 (+3.54)
		FT - 500: 1,158.51 (+4.06)
FALLS:		FT Fixed interest: 86.39 (-0.13)
First Technology	325p (-12p)	Bangkok: 1,699.00 (-16.00)
Lloyds	273p (-11p)	SEAO Volume: 357.50 (0.75)
Tarmac	244p (-10p)	SGM (Datstream): 12,952.00 (-7.75)
Rauters	837p (-14p)	Closing prices: *Denotes latest trading price
Rank Org	605p (-15p)	
UK Land	230p (-20p)	

Willis to face US income fall

By NEIL BENNETT</

Portfolio**PLATINUM**

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add the closing price to your running total for the week. Add this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gross or loss
1	Honda Motor	Motors/Aircraft	
2	Warrington	Property	
3	Tesco (ts)	Foods	
4	Williams (Hds ts)	Industries S-Z	
5	Rephorw	Industries E-K	
6	Scot & New (ts)	Breweries	
7	Whiteman	Industries S-Z	
8	Schroders	Banks/Discount	
9	Utd Biscuits (ts)	Foods	
10	Newman Tools	Building/Roads	
11	Br Land (ts)	Property	
12	Br Aerospace (ts)	Motors/Aircraft	
13	Harrison	Drapery/Stores	
14	Smithfield Beech (ts)	Industries S-Z	
15	Whesco	Industries S-Z	
16	Hunction Whampson	Industries E-K	
17	Imp Chem Ind (ts)	Chemicals/Plas	
18	Hewitt (ts)	Industries E-K	
19	Cadbury-Schwepp (ts)	Foods	
20	Cable Wireless (ts)	Electronics	
21	Micro Focus	Electronics	
22	TSB (ts)	Banks/Discount	
23	Canning (ts)	Chemicals/Plas	
24	Wellcome (ts)	Industries S-Z	
25	Unilever (ts)	Industries S-Z	
26	Ranger	Oil/Gas	
27	Sudore	Tealins	
28	Le Service	Motors/Aircraft	
29	Compass Gp	Leisure	
30	Unitech	Electronics	
31	Hawker Siddeley (ts)	Industries E-K	
32	Nor West (ts)	Banks/Discount	
33	Powerscreen	Industries L-R	
34	RHM (ts)	Foods	
35	Grenfell Wh	Breweries	
36	ASW	Industries A-D	
37	Harrison Ind	Building/Roads	
38	Wainwright	Paper/Print/Adv	
39	Br Airways (ts)	Transport	
40	Stobart Estates (ts)	Property	
41	Stobart	Roads	
42	Kingsfisher (ts)	Drapery/Stores	
43	GB In	Industries E-K	
44	Meyer Im	Building/Roads	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
WEEKLY Total					

The winner of the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mr R Shier, of Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire.

BRITISH FUNDS					
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg/	Yield
SHORTS (Under Five Years)					
87%	88%	88%	88	-1.00	11.4%
88%	89%	89%	89	-0.00	11.85%
89%	90%	90%	90	-0.00	12.40%
90%	91%	91%	91	-0.00	12.80%
91%	92%	92%	92	-0.00	12.80%
92%	93%	93%	93	-0.00	12.80%
93%	94%	94%	94	-0.00	12.80%
94%	95%	95%	95	-0.00	12.80%
95%	96%	96%	96	-0.00	12.80%
96%	97%	97%	97	-0.00	12.80%
97%	98%	98%	98	-0.00	12.80%
98%	99%	99%	99	-0.00	12.80%
99%	100%	100%	100	-0.00	12.80%
100%	101%	101%	101	-0.00	12.80%
101%	102%	102%	102	-0.00	12.80%
102%	103%	103%	103	-0.00	12.80%
103%	104%	104%	104	-0.00	12.80%
104%	105%	105%	105	-0.00	12.80%
105%	106%	106%	106	-0.00	12.80%
106%	107%	107%	107	-0.00	12.80%
107%	108%	108%	108	-0.00	12.80%
108%	109%	109%	109	-0.00	12.80%
109%	110%	110%	110	-0.00	12.80%
110%	111%	111%	111	-0.00	12.80%
111%	112%	112%	112	-0.00	12.80%
112%	113%	113%	113	-0.00	12.80%
113%	114%	114%	114	-0.00	12.80%
114%	115%	115%	115	-0.00	12.80%
115%	116%	116%	116	-0.00	12.80%
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122%	123%	123%	123	-0.00	12.80%
123%	124%	124%	124	-0.00	12.80%
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125%	126%	126%	126	-0.00	12.80%
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127%	128%	128%	128	-0.00	12.80%
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138%	139%	139%	139	-0.00	12.80%
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140%	141%	141%	141	-0.00	12.80%
141%	142%	142%	142	-0.00	12.80%
142%	143%	143%	143	-0.00	12.80%
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145%	146%	146%	146	-0.00	12.80%
146%	147%	147%	147	-0.00	12.80%
147%	148%	148%	148	-0.00	12.80%
148%	149%	149%	149	-0.00	12.80%
149%	150%	150%	150	-0.00	12.80%
150%	151%	151%	151	-0.00	12.80%
151%	152%	152%	152	-0.00	12.80%
152%	153%	153%	153	-0.00	12.80%
153%	154%	154%	154	-0.00	12.80%
154%	155%	155%	155	-0.00	12.80%
155%	156%	156%	156	-0.00	12.80%
156%	157%	157%	157	-0.00	12.80%
157%	158%	158%	158	-0.00	12.80%
158%	159%	159%	159	-0.00	12.80%
159%	160%	160%	160	-0.00	12.80%
160%	161%	161%	161	-0.00	12.80%
161%	162%	162%	162	-0.00	12.80%
162%	163%	163%	163	-0.00	12.80%
163%	164%	164%	164	-0.00	12.80%
164%	165%	165%	165	-0.00	12.80%
165%	166%	166%	166	-0.00	12.80%
166%	167%	167%	167	-0.00	12.80%
167%	168%	168%	168	-0.00	12.80%
168%	169%	169%	169	-0.00	12.80%
169%	170%	170%	170	-0.00	12.80%
170%	171%	171%	171	-0.00	12.80%
171%	172%	172%	172	-0.00	12.80%
172%	173%	173%	173	-0.00	12.80%
173%	174%	174%	174	-0.00	12.80%
174%	175%	175%	175	-0.00	12.80%
175%	176%	176%	176	-0.00	12.80%
176					

Exposure to smaller firms hurts UK unit trusts' performance

By HELEN PRIDHAM

EVEN before tension in the Gulf upset the stock market and sent share prices tumbling, British unit trust managers had been having difficulty making headway.

According to Micropal's performance figures to August 1, in only six of the 464 British funds available would a £100 investment be worth more than it was a year ago.

Across all four categories of UK equity unit trusts — general, growth, income and balanced — the average value of £100 invested a year ago is now £76 after charges are taken into account but including income reinvested.

Part of this loss of 24 per cent is accounted for by the bid offer spread of more than 6 per cent, which includes the initial charge unit trust managers take to cover their expenses. However, this still leaves a considerable performance gap when compared with the FT-SE index, which rose 1.2 per cent over the 12 months or the FTA All-Share index, which lost only 2.2 per cent with no allowance for income reinvested.

James Shillingford, investment director of M&G, the largest unit trust group and manager of ten British funds, puts the underperformance down to the "small companies effect".

"All of our UK unit trusts have a substantial exposure to smaller companies whose shares have not done as well as those of larger companies over the past year. Larger companies have been in favour because they often operate internationally and their earnings are, therefore, less dependent on the state of the UK economy. Smaller firms tend to get most of their business here and were thus expected to be harder hit by the squeeze."

Mr Shillingford says that comparing unit trust performance with the mainstream FT All-Share or FT-SE indices is misleading because neither contains all the shares that fund managers can invest in. The FT-SE covers only the 100 largest companies and even the All-Share index is not what its name suggests. It only



Green concerns: Michael Foster of Eagle Star, whose environmental opportunities trust was the best performer

contains the 750 largest company shares traded on the stock market. In fact, a total of around 1,600 shares are listed."

The 1,200 smallest company shares are monitored by the Hoare Govett smaller companies index, which over the past year shows a loss of 17.9 per cent compared with the 2.2 per cent loss of the FT All-Share index.

The present period is unusual, says John Houlihan of Hoare Govett. "In the past small companies have often outperformed larger companies, or at least shown a positive gain over a calendar year. The last time the Hoare Govett index recorded a minus was at the time of 1974 stock market crash."

Mr Houlihan believes that more smaller companies are failing now than in the early Eighties' recession because they have less "fat" to shed and are often more highly geared. Although there has been a marginal improvement in small company share prices in June and July, Mr Houlihan says: "There is still more pain to come."

Simon Walters, Save & Prosper's investment director, points out that even those unit

trust managers that have invested in large companies have had a testing time.

"Not only have there been the obvious failures such as British & Commonwealth and Coloroll, there have also been wide disparities in the share price movements of other large companies.

Burton, for example, is down 60 per cent and Carlton Communications is down 51 per cent against a 44 per cent

rise in Abbey National shares," he says.

The best performing British trust was Eagle Star's environmental opportunities trust, launched in June last year, which showed a gain of 4.8 per cent over the 12 months to August 1.

Michael Foster of Eagle Star explains: "The aim of the fund is to invest in those firms that are profiting from increased environmental concerns, rather than being a 100 per cent niche ethical green fund." Two successful holdings have been Powerscience, a mechanical engineer that specialises in reclaiming rubble from building sites and Caird, a waste disposal company with landfill capabilities.

The fund has also benefited from its exposure to continental Europe. Even though it is categorised as a British fund, it can have up to 20 per cent of its portfolio invested elsewhere. Other unit trusts that have done well over the past year have been mainly those with high investment in large companies. Income funds have also proved their ability to achieve capital growth.

Investors may question why other fund managers did not use their expertise to change strategy and invest in larger companies.

Mr Shillingford says: "We do not believe that what has happened recently is going to be a long-term trend. We still think that investing in sound smaller companies will bring the best results. Such temporary shifts in fashion towards larger companies are difficult to predict and to switch backwards and forwards for short-term gains is unlikely to be in the interest of unit holders."

He also points out that many unit holders invest for income and this has not suffered over the past year.

The distribution of M&G's dividend fund, for example, rises 17.1 per cent.

Mr Shillingford adds: "It is quite wrong to place too much emphasis on one year figures again. It should always be remembered that unit trusts are a medium to long-term investment. They should be judged on a three to five-year view. I would never judge one of our own fund managers on one year performance only."

Over a five-year period, British unit trust performance certainly looks more favourable.

New high-risk futures funds meet resistance from British managers

By RUPERT BRUCE

FORTUNES have been made and life savings lost on the futures market in a matter of days. Unlike as it may seem, the British unit trust movement will soon be offering futures unit trusts.

Investors who are prepared to place a great deal of faith in the ability of fund managers — so-called commodity trading advisers — to make them rich quick will be able to invest in high risk funds. They will also be offered funds with a lower risk than the average share unit trust.

But the advent of these funds has aroused opposition among unit trust managers.

Julian Sherstis of the Unit Trust Association reports that while most unit trust managers are considering launching low risk funds, few are looking at high risk ones.

"There is a feeling that the risk profile does not match what people would expect of the normal unit trust," he said.

Futures and traded options are, essentially, devices that fluctuate in price relative to stock market indices, currencies or commodities such as sugar. But they are much more volatile than the underlying investments and, consequently, a fund manager stands to make a greater gain or loss in a shorter period.

The high risk futures unit trust will invest mainly in futures and traded options. However, the low risk funds will be hybrids of bonds and futures and options. These would be about 90 per cent invested in bonds and 10 per cent in the futures and options.

The bond element would ensure an investor received his money back after a time, perhaps a year, and the futures would be used to try to boost performance.

British investment regulators are keenly aware of the difference in risk. They plan to make the marketing rules for high risk funds much more stringent than for the low risk ones when they are introduced next year. Investors will not be able to invest in high risk funds by just filling in a

newspaper coupon, for example.

Nevertheless, some managers feel there is no place for futures in the unit trust business. Tim Miller, marketing director at M&G Securities, said: "We think that unit trust are for buying shares and as such they are not for buying futures."

Experience in America suggests the high risk funds are not investments for the public. The Mercury 90-10 Trust, which charges half a per cent annually on the bond investment and 10 per cent on the futures element if its value doubles.

James Dawney, a director of Mercury, will consider launching a similar fund in Britain when the rules allow it. Even so, he said: "The low risk option seems to just cap the opportunity inherent in investing in the stock market. If you were to do that I wonder if you would not be better off with your money in the building society."

Futures and options may have a use in enhancing the performance of normal unit trusts investing in shares. Alan Wren, Prudential Holborn's chief executive, uses the example of an international unit trust. He said that if a manager has invested heavily in the UK, but believes the stock market may be heading for a six-month squal, he can take out a "put" option contract on the British market's FT-SE 100 index. As he lost money on the shares, he would make it on the option.

The whole process would be less costly than selling the shares and buying them back again when the squal had cleared and easier to execute. That aside, futures unit trusts seem a poor bet for the British public. It may be difficult for the armchair investor to understand the complexities and dangers of the high risk fund. And the low risk fund may be of little use.

Mr Dawney said: "There is a danger that we are offering a whole range of new products to the consumer which are inappropriate to his needs."

Wren: international view of Managed Accounts Reports, a fund performance monitoring service. The main reason is the high charges.

John Govett is a British unit trust manager which plans to offer high risk funds in the UK. It already has futures funds offshore and its Paragon fund charges 8.5 per cent when money is invested and another 3 per cent a year. In addition, futures funds charge a success fee, typically 15 per cent of any capital gain, and brokerage charges.

Commodity trading advisers justify their charges by pointing out that managing futures funds is more labour intensive than managing equity funds. And when the managers get it right, the fees are insignificant.

Unfortunately, not all advisers are consistent. They

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Craig	Yield		Bid	Offer	Craig	Yield		Bid	Offer	Craig	Yield		Bid	Offer	Craig	Yield		Bid	Offer	Craig	Yield		
ASTRA LIFE INSURANCE																										
4011 St John's House, London EC1V 4QE																										
Do Accru	189.1	199.1	-5.8																							
Do Invest Int	189.1	199.1	-5.8																							
Life Fund	189.1	199.1	-5.8																							
Small	14.10	14.65	+0.05																							
Over	14.22	14.57	+0.28																							
Surf	12.90	13.27	+0.27																							
Over	12.90	13.27	+0.27																							
Over Edged	11.2	11.2	+0.1																							
Deposit	12.63	12.63	+0.02																							
Persons																										
Small	17.44	18.30	+0.04																							
Over	18.26	19.22	+0.26																							
Over	18.46	19.44	+0.38																							
Over	18.04	19.04	+0.40																							
Over Edged	14.06	14.06	+0.07																							
Deposit	18.01	19.01	+0.07																							
Excess App Mixed	18.01	19.01	+0.07																							
ABERY LIFE																										
8012 Romford Rd, Bournemouth BH2 5AL																										
Do Accru	288.1	300.3	+0.1																							
Do Accru	443.8	467.3	+0.1																							
Do Accru	345.0	368.3	+0.2																							
Do Accru	140.1	141.7	+0.1																							
Do Accru	150.1	151.7	+0.1	</td																						

WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

Banker's choice

From Mr D. S. Jenkins
Sir, When a banker is presented with a cheque drawn by a customer who does not have sufficient funds in his account, to meet it, the banker has two options. He either pays it or returns it to the presenting bank as unpaid.

If the bank pays the cheque, how can it claim that the resultant overdraft is unauthorised? Surely by agreeing to pay, that is authorisation in itself. The bank, quite correctly, charges interest on the overdraft so created. It is, in effect, is charging for what is regarded as possibly the primary objective of maintaining a banking account; that is, the ability to borrow money.

What other business sells its products to customers and then charges them additionally for the privilege of dealing with them?

Yours faithfully,
D. S. JENKINS,
Pound Hall Farm,
107 Norley Lane,
Studley, Calne,
Wiltshire.

Import tax puzzle

From Mr David Whitaker
Sir, Can any of your readers explain to me why Customs and Excise charges value-added tax on goods brought into this country, when they do not add value?

Surely, whatever they charge, it ought not to be VAT?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WHITAKER,
30 Jenner House,
Hunter Street, WC1.

Franc exchange

From Mr Charles M. Flood
Sir, I was interested in your article (Weekend Money, August 11). When discussing currency rates you did not warn readers that if they use a credit card for buying foreign currency, the transaction is treated as a loan from the date of the transaction. Six weeks interest at APR 29.84 per cent

Small-minded treatment of those who quit Barclaycard

From Mr Laurence Faulkner
Sir, I was interested to read about the pitfalls of changing credit cards, as result of Barclaycard's introduction of an annual fee (Comment, Weekend Money, August 11).

I recently experienced another problem when closing my Barclaycard account and changing over to the Save & Prosper Visa card. I had been in the Profiles incentive scheme run by Barclaycard, and the current number of points was always shown on the bottom of the monthly statement. I was very surprised, therefore, to notice that my final statement, after I had told them I wanted to close the account, did not show how many points I had already accumulated. I telephoned Barclaycard, who told

Draft fee dodged

From Mrs M. Cooper
Sir, I read Ronald Rigg's letter (Weekend Money Letters, August 11) and sympathise with his feelings.

I also sought a banker's draft from my bank recently for the purchase of a car and a similar fee was requested. I suggested the bank gave me the same amount in cash instead (no fee charged for that). The banker's draft promptly appeared - without charge!

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET COOPER,
Home Farmhouse,
Oxon,
Nottinghamshire.

on £500, incurs an interest charge of £17.20, on top of any other charges. The cheapest way I have found to get francs for example is to buy travellers' cheques in England from Crédit Lyonnais paid for by personal cheque. This secures a better rate of exchange than sterling travellers' cheques when cashed at a Crédit Lyonnais bank in France at their face value with no further charge. Even better, if a little more cumbersome, can be a straight change of sterling cash for francs at a bank in France, especially in a big town, where one can compare various rates of exchange easily.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES M. FLOOD,
Private Consulting Suite,
Fitzroy Nuffield Hospital,
10-12 Bryanston Square, W1.

I'd like to make a number of points...



Telecom charges

From Mrs Jennie Hawthorne
Sir, The double British Telecom rental, about which your correspondent Mr Burns-side complains, can be tripled by the fact that rental, no matter for how short a period, has to be paid for three months in advance (though part may be later refunded).

Thus a new occupier of a house pays three months in advance (plus reconnection charge plus three months' rental in advance). Yours faithfully,
JENNIE HAWTHORNE,
10 Hawthorn Road,
Wallington,
Surrey.

that time. The next tenant (or the landlord) pays a new connection charge of over £20 for the same line, plus three months' rental in advance, even if only in the property three weeks, and the next occupier (or the landlord) again pays a reconnection charge plus three months' rental in advance.

Yours faithfully,

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES M. FLOOD,
Private Consulting Suite,
Fitzroy Nuffield Hospital,
10-12 Bryanston Square, W1.

buyers were refused a mortgage by the building society and the sale fell through. A survey by structural engineers (obviously at our expense) revealed that this was the normal shrinkage cracking to be expected in a house only two years old. By this time it was too late to retrieve the sale and it is still necessary to bridge the new house we have bought (fortunately covered for a while by my company).

The comments and questions arising from this experience are:

1. Sellers of homes can be inconvenienced as much as buyers by incorrect survey information.

2. This type of experience will probably increase as surveyors ensure that they are "covered" against the type of claim your article mentions and become increasingly cautious.

3. Does the seller have any recourse against the buyer's surveyor for the expenses incurred, either directly or through the RICS?

Yours sincerely,

NICHOLAS MORLEY,
2 Well Cottages,
Lee Common,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire.

Societies' shortcomings

From Mr Duncan Macleay
Sir, Some months ago you published a letter from a reader who said he was so dissatisfied with his bank that he intended to transfer his account to a building society. He had written to the bank to tell them so and was further aggrieved that he had not reply to this letter. My own suspicion was that whenever a member of the bank staff sat down to reply, he was convulsed with helpless laughter at the thought of anyone hoping to receive better service in this way.

Some two years ago my wife and I opened, in addition to our personal bank accounts, a joint account with a building society to look after regular household expenses. Among the incidents since then, the society has:

- a. returned a dividend cheque to a company with a note that they could not find the account.
- b. paid monthly a standing order due every six months.

Apart from having a better, if not perfect, record in handling our accounts, the banks do not go in for pseudo-personal relations: "Good morning, this is John. Can I help you?" or, in letters, "Our ref. Karen." Curiously, I have never made contact with any of these people a second time. Although staff in both banks and societies are usually courteous and helpful, the banks do not seem to have that minority of staff who insist on condescending explanations of how accounts work, explanations which seem intended to show that in the end it was not the society's fault.

We retain our building society largely through inertia; it took some effort to set the system of payments up and we do not want to repeat this at the moment.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN MACLEAY,
92 Munro Road,
Jordanhill, Glasgow.

The comments and questions arising from this experience are:

1. Sellers of homes can be inconvenienced as much as buyers by incorrect survey information.

2. This type of experience will probably increase as surveyors ensure that they are "covered" against the type of claim your article mentions and become increasingly cautious.

3. Does the seller have any recourse against the buyer's surveyor for the expenses incurred, either directly or through the RICS?

Yours sincerely,

NICHOLAS MORLEY,
2 Well Cottages,
Lee Common,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire.

FRAMINGTON P.E.P.

For information on our
unit trust PEP
ring 071-374 4100
or fill in the coupon.

TO FRAMINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED,
FREEPOST, 155 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON EC2B 2TT.

Please send me details of the Framlington PEP

Surname _____
Initials _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

07/01/90

Advertisement issued by Framlington Unit Management Limited,
a member of IMFO, LATRO, IOB and the UTA.

YOUR MONEY & HOW TO KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

As a married person do you know the most effective way to arrange your investments now that independent taxation is here?

Is your mortgage interest being allocated correctly? Are you missing a tax saving opportunity?

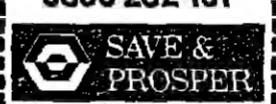
"Independent Taxation" is free from Allied Dunbar. It suggests practical ways in which you could improve your tax position by taking some simple steps.



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Playing safe with credit cards

By RODNEY HORSON

WOULD you share your cheque book with a friend? Sensible people who would never dream of risking a fraudulent withdrawal from their current account are creating a grey area of responsibility when it comes to credit, charge and debit cards.

A reader from Marlow in Buckinghamshire was dining with an important foreign business client at a London hotel. He regarded the contact as a long-standing friend and allowed his American Express card to pass into the client's possession for a few minutes.

His error, he admits, and an expensive one. The "long-standing friend" apparently used the card to pay his own hotel bill for £2,500 which the Marlow reader now faces paying.

A spokeswoman for American Express says: "If any member for any reason disputes a payment and there is no signature on the voucher we would normally charge the amount back to the hotel."

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, the report below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 35).

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sunday
1	-4	+3	+1	+7		
2	-5	+8	+4	+5		
3	-3	+7	+2	+4		
4	-4	+5	+2	+7		
5	-4	+6	+3	+6		
6	-5	+7	+3	+5		
7	-3	+5	+5	+3		
8	-5	+3	+1	+8		
9	-2	+8	+4	+5		
10	-3	+7	+5	+6		
11	-4	+5	+5	+3		
12	-4	+8	+3	+5		
13	-1	+6	+5	+4		
14	-5	+8	+3	+3		
15	-4	+4	+2	+6		
16	-3	+8	+3	+5		
17	-5	+4	+1	+6		
18	-2	+5	+4	+6		
19	-4	+7	+4	+3		
20	-5	+3	+3	+8		
21	-4	+5	+2	+4		
22	-4	+9	+3	+4		
23	-4	+7	+4	+4		
24	-5	+7	+3	+3		
25	-4	+4	+1	+8		
26	-3	+7	+2	+4		
27	-3	+8	+7	+4		
28	-5	8	+5	+3		
29	-3	+6	+3	+7		
30	-6	+7	+4	+5		
31	-3	7	+3	+4		
32	-6	+9	+3	+4		
33	-2	+6	+4	+3		
34	-4	+4	+2	+7		
35	-3	+3	+3	+7		
36	-3	+7	+5	+3		
37	-5	+8	+5	+3		
38	-3	+6	+5	+3		
39	-2	+7	+4	+5		
40	-3	+4	+3	+4		
41	-3	+4	+1	+8		
42	-4	+6	+4	+6		
43	-2	+5	+6	+5		
44	-4	+9	+5	+4		

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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The Financial Services Act gave all the banks, building societies and brokers the option of choosing independent status and offering customers the best investment advice possible, or tied status and the chance to earn large amounts of commission on the quiet. Not surprisingly, all but three of the big high street names opted to take the commission and run. The noble exceptions were National Westminster Bank, the Bradford and Bingley building society and the Yorkshire building society.

Becoming a tied agent of an insurance company was not merely a matter of greater financial gain. Laziness played its part too for some salesmen. Why go to the trouble of learning about all the products available in the market, when you could mug up on the products of just one company?

Now, however, the fashion is changing. Customers, it seems, are not as naive as was first assumed. They can, in increasing numbers, differentiate between independent advice and salesmanship. They do not like the idea of paying vast sums of

commission for a lesser service.

More and more investors like the idea of independent financial advice. Many would even be prepared to pay for it. They see a fixed fee as being fair, open and much cheaper than the commission charged, but not revealed by tied agents.

Given the new climate of opinion, some of the tied agents appear to be resorting to disguise. Take the new television advertisement from Barclays — a bank that sells only the investment products of Barclays companies through its branches.

A poor wretch has nightmares that he is being given the hard-sell on pensions by a man on his television set, a man who is clearly not an independent adviser. Other salesmen for life assurance and unit trusts bombard him by way of his answering machine, telephone and letterbox. Then, hey presto. The "ghost" from Barclays appears in his sitting room to save him from

the sales spivs. The ghost explains that Barclays has "experts" on hand to help him sort out his financial needs. The clear implication is that the ghost's chums in Barclays branches can differentiate between all the offers featured in the nightmare and tell the customer which products are best for him. This is untrue. Barclays branch staff are experts in Barclays products alone.

The marketing department of Barclays explained that it did not feel it was necessary to point out in the advertisement the nature of the advice its "experts" would offer to customers. In fact, all but a small minority would be

offered Barclays products. Only the more sophisticated investor would be referred to its brokerage service and offered the full range of the market. Expertise did not signify independent advice, said the marketing man.

The advertisement was intended to awaken people to the need for financial guidance and had been remembered by 23 per cent of people surveyed in the first week of its being shown, the marketing man said.

The bank says the advertisement has passed the compliance checks. If so, such checks must be made more rigorous. In the meantime, television viewers should be clear

in their own minds — if they want genuine independent high street expertise they should avoid Barclays.

Debt check

As these pages anticipated last week, the Data Protection Registrar, Eric Howe, has served enforcement notices on the four main credit reference agencies, CCN Systems, Infolink, Wescon Data and Credit and Data Marketing Services have been told to stop supplying information on other people in households when a person applies for credit. The registrar has given the agencies until the end of July 1991 to come into line with the requirements of the 1984 Data Protection Act — a generous offer.

But the battle is unlikely to end next summer. Lenders still believe that information about lodgers, domestic staff or adult

children is essential when deciding whether or not to make a loan. They argue that there is no way of knowing the real relationships between members of a household, and that the debts of one may land another in trouble if credit is extended.

The agencies have 28 days in which to appeal to the Data Protection Tribunal. After that, they can take the dispute all the way to the House of Lords on a point of law. In the meantime, 100,000 people a year are disadvantaged by such illicit material.

The Industry Forum on Data Protection, which represents building societies, finance houses, retailers and mail order companies, has already offered to stop using information on people with different surnames who formerly lived at the same address as a credit applicant from July 31 next year.

The next eleven months will give further room for compromise which should aim to protect both the privacy of applicants and the need of lenders to carry out responsible vetting of clients.

Inheritance tax law puts pension benefits at risk

PEOPLE with personal pension policies that have been written under trust could face higher-than-expected inheritance tax bills if a precedent set recently by the Inland Revenue is enforced universally.

The move centres on Section 3(3) of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984. This states that a person who lowers their inheritance tax liability by omitting to "exercise a right" should be treated as if that right had been fully exercised.

For people who have taken the precaution of writing their pension benefits under trust and who have the option to retire earlier than they intend to, the consequences of this clause being enforced could prove costly.

Anyone who dies after the earliest possible date they could have retired, which for most personal pensions is 50, but before taking their pension benefits, would fall foul of the act.

Trusts intended to protect those benefits from the tax man, could then be annulled by the Inland Revenue and the full value of the pension made subject to taxation.

Despite the relevant legislation having been in place for some time, the Association of British Insurers was only alerted to the issue when it was cited in a ruling made by the Inland Revenue's Capital Taxes Office (CTO) early this year.

The case involved several old-style Section 226 personal pension contracts, the benefits of which had been written into trust shortly before the policyholder died.

The CTO has long regarded these so-called "death bed" cases as an abuse of the system, but has never sought

Inland Revenue precedent could prove costly to those not aiming to retire early says Paul Nuki

to interpret the act in this way.

Alastair Neill, head of the ABI's pensions committee, described the move as "highly bureaucratic" and said that the ABI had formally taken up the issue with the CTO.

It runs contrary to the spirit and intention of the original legislation", he said.

The threat is most serious for people who have purchased personal pensions since July 1988, when the minimum retirement age was reduced from 60 to 50.

These new-style plans are very flexible and tend to incorporate options that would render them next to useless for inheritance planning purposes should the CTO's line be endorsed.

Even policies on which a late retirement date was fixed at the outset could be affected. Alex Sneddon, Scottish Widows' administration manager, said: "While it is still fairly common for pensions to be written at a specific age, the policy provisions now allow the member to go early... we think that is the trigger point so far as the Revenue are concerned."

Under these circumstances, a policyholder could only escape the trap if he or she could prove that their failure to exercise their right to retire early was not deliberate, said Mr Sneddon. Only then would the trust remain valid.

It is not known how many personal pensions are used for inheritance tax planning purposes but there can be no doubt that the possibility of doing so increases their attraction.

Alan Steel of the Glasgow-based intermediary, Alan Steel Asset Management, said:

"Just about every client we've ever had is written into trust for inheritance tax purposes. It could save 40 per cent, so of course, it adds value to the product."

Although a spokesman for the Inland Revenue would only confirm that it was "in correspondence" with the ABI over the CTO's initiative, there can be little doubt that the Inland Revenue has been looking closely at pension trust law.

Two weeks ago it gave the go-ahead for millions of pre-1980 Section 226 policies to be written under trust retrospectively, thereby reducing inheritance tax bills for policyholders who die intestate.

Previously, all death-in-service benefits attached to these contracts had to be paid into the policyholder's estate.

If all goes well, the ABI will secure an extra-statutory concession from the CTO to get the legislation changed.

Alternatively, the Inland Revenue's recent generosity could turn out to be little more than a trade-off for a more bitter pill to be swallowed later.

As things stand, industry figures close to the negotiations are unwilling to place bets either way.

ADVERTISING a house for sale in a slow market is a sure way of attracting the attention of underworked estate agents and others making a business of property dealing.

But credibility often comes under strain in these approaches, as a reader in Chelsea discovered when he advertised his house for £300,000. An insurance broker offered him £200,000, or £220,000 if he would move out within a week. He said he looked at all the freehold properties advertised as quite a lot of people were in trouble. He picked up the nice properties and sold them on after furnishing them," said the reader, who declined the broker's offer.

A quotation on investment timing from J Paul Getty, the late billionaire, accompanied another approach: a letter from London Investment Property Services (LIPS), which described itself as "international property brokers", claiming to direct its "efforts and expertise" at overseas investors "to whom buying UK property makes most sense".

Paul Wood, LIPS client services manager, referred to recent news of "European, American, Middle and Far Eastern corporations relocating their assets and investing heavily in the UK property market prior to the Open European Community in 1992 and the forthcoming upturn in market values".

Listing favourable overseas interest rates and the current weakness of sterling as attractions for the overseas investor, Mr Wood said a rental management programme would provide sufficient income to service the investment.

A scale of fees enclosed showed that for a £300,000 property, LIPS would charge the seller an initial marketing fee of £425 and completion fee of two per cent of the gross sales value, both with VAT to be added.

Reproducing a series of average house price inflation figures ending in 1987, LIPS concluded: "After a period of steadily increasing rises in property values, there is now an unprecedented depression and prices are low. Based on the historic performance of this market, now is the time to buy." In capitals, it added: "The secret is timing."

The concentration on investment in LIPS's literature has led a number of its recipients to make enquiries at the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), which oversees the authorisation of investment businesses.

According to the information we have, they are acting as estate agents, not doing investment business," said a SIB spokeswoman.

At LIPS, Nigel Hill, who described himself as one of the portfolio managers, said the firm differed greatly from an estate agent as it repackaged the product to sell it: "We don't market properties on aesthetic values," he said.

"We have a master of

Property dealers urge homeowners to sell at bottom of the market



Brokers: the Waterloo Place offices of London Investment Property Services

economics who works out capital growth potential over the next three to five years based on a multiple of historic capital growth in the area over 15 to 20 years and rental income growth."

Companies House records show that LIPS was incorporated only last November,

Hill said he would have to consult the senior partners.

A day later, Mr Hill said that because the company was involved in negotiations with a substantial group, which would ultimately take it under its wing, the partners did not say how much business it was doing.

"We are not about to give out facts and figures regarding our company's turnover and income," he added.

Asked for examples of overseas companies investing

in Britain, he said he would have to wait on, having only 200 to 300 on its books, but would not say how much business it was doing.

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"We are not about to give out facts and figures regarding our company's turnover and income," he added.

Asked for examples of overseas companies investing

similarly to Americans, "Hong Kong is our major market at this time," he said.

Mr Hill qualified Mr Wood's statement that the firm's rental programme would provide sufficient income to service an investment. "It depends on how you quantify servicing an investment," he said. "If someone was borrowing 90 per cent of the price, of course it would not." He estimated that good quality properties would bring in 10 per cent annually in rental income, but noted that various costs would be involved.

Summing up the firm's view of the property market, which he said was shared by "most of the pundits, such as the Halifax", Mr Hill claimed it was not unreasonable to suggest that desirable properties with good income potential would double in value over the next three to five years.

"If they don't, of course, we certainly believe that over three years they will show good appreciation," he said.

To double within three years, house prices would have to rise by 25 per cent a year. To double within five years, the growth rate would have to be 15 per cent a year.

Joe Roseman, a property analyst with UBS Phillips & Drew, forecasts that house prices will finish this year five per cent down on 1989 and rise 10 per cent from that lower level during 1991. He said that in the long run, house prices have tended to rise at the same rate as earnings.

Gary Marsh, the house price specialist at the Halifax Building Society, said the society did not see house price inflation getting back into double figures until 1991 or 1992 and did not expect another boom before the mid-Nineties. Unwilling to give a definite five-year forecast because of factors such as inflation, Mr Marsh said the society had been thinking in terms of a 30 to 50 per cent increase over the next five years.

George Pope, the joint chairman and finance director of John D Wood, the estate agents, said he felt the property market had bottomed out at the end of last year, but he would doubt the intelligence of anyone looking for prices to double within three to five years.

"Nobody has told me there is a galaxy of buyers from abroad," said Mr Pope, noting, however, that his firm had sold several properties to Hong Kong buyers who thought that now was the right time to buy.

Running an active letting service, Mr Pope said an eight or nine per cent gross return from rentals was more realistic than ten per cent, as voids and redecoration periods had to be allowed for.

Tony Copping-Joyce, an estate agent, dismissed LIPS's claims as "pure sales patter". He noted that buying interest from Hong Kong dated back two or three years, but said that the tension in the Gulf and the effect on the dollar made any great influx into the British residential market unlikely.

BARBARA ELLIS

but Mr Hill said it had been promoting and marketing its ideas for well over 12 months before that.

The senior partners of the company are all seasoned marketing and property professionals," he said. But when asked for the names of these people, with some details of their property experience, Mr

If all went well, they would have to make an announcement in October.

Mr Hill said the senior partners had consulted no one but the Mr Nicholas recorded as a director at Companies House, of whom he had no knowledge.

He said the company was selective in the properties it

heavily in British property. Mr Hill produced a cutting from *The Times* dated May 21, reporting interest in residential property by an American pension fund.

He conceded that as the dollar had fallen against the pound in the past month, buying property in Britain had become less attractive, partic-

ularly in London. Licence holders have to apply for the refund.

Wessex has no ban so far. If one became necessary, the company has promised a refund would be made.

Policy among the smaller water companies varies. For example, Bristol charges £1.250 for a hosepipe and £3 for a sprinkler, while Bournemouth imposes an extra £12 for a hosepipe and £39 for a sprinkler.

If restrictions are needed, Bournemouth regards April to September as the sprinkler season, so a one-month ban would mean refunding one sixth of the fee.

Wessex refunds half the sprinkler licence fee if the ban lasts for more than one month and the whole fee for

scrapped its charges this year and even long-suffering Mid Kent, awaiting a decent downpour for more than a year, makes no charge for hosepipes although it has retained its sprinkler fee of £21.50.

Even that is looking academic. A ban has been in force for all the current year.

Last year's ban resulted in a refund on this year's bill and the company is considering whether to follow a similar policy this time.

Many consumers are saving themselves from restrictions by co-operating in saving water.

North West, for example, says: "We have asked people where possible to avoid using hosepipes and sprinklers and we have had good co-operation."

Counting the cost of water rationing

By RODNEY HOBSON

HOUSEHOLDERS contemplating their parched gardens get vastly different treatment from the various water companies when it comes to charging for, and banning the use of hosepipes and sprinklers.

Of the ten authorities privatised last year, none charges for hosepipes but four charge for sprinklers. Wessex has the highest rate at £35, with Welsh asking £26, Thames £25, and Anglian £20.

Thames is the only authority with a total ban on hosepipes and sprinklers, introduced on August 11. Thames will calculate a pro rata refund when the ban ends, deducting the amount from the next bill to be sent out in April. Anglia introduced a ban on August 10 on the parts of its area that rely on

ground water, with about 500,000 of its 3.8 million users affected.

Those subject to the restriction are sure of a 50 per cent rebate on the surcharge, but if the ban lasts for more than two months they will get all the sprinkler charge back.

Payment will be made automatically, but Anglia has not yet decided whether to send out cheques or deduct the refund from the next bill.

Welsh has a sprinkler ban in just one area east of Brecon. The single restriction was enforced by the National Rivers Authority because of the low level of a stream below a reservoir.

Welsh refunds half the sprinkler licence fee if the ban lasts for more than one month and the whole fee for

Family Assurance Society
FREEPOST, Leicester LE4 5ZG.
(Registered under 1974 Friendly Societies Act, Reg No. 939)

Multi-million pound success story the City chooses to ignore

A young Indian woman, in London for a series of operations to restore her sight, walked unannounced into the Baker Street offices of Swraj Paul's Caparo Group. The woman, a stranger, showed him unpaid hospital bills amounting to £4,000. He studied them and then wrote out a cheque to the hospital concerned.

Five minutes later the woman returned, this time in tears. "You don't know me, you don't know if this is genuine, I can't accept your money," Paul reassured her and she took the cheque.

Two years later the same woman left a valuable piece of jewellery for Paul at his offices in Delhi as a thank-you gift, and four years after he returned it to her, when she again made contact with him there.

"She telephoned me because a friend had told her that I was in town and we met," Paul, aged 59, recalls. "I was able to return her jewellery. Her eye sight had been completely restored. The pleasure that that gave me was far greater than having another £4,000 in the bank."

Strangers approach Paul for money almost daily. He is, after all, worth about £100 million. Sometimes they simply want advice. An Asian shopkeeper, perhaps, contemplating divorce. "I almost always agree to see them," he says. "And if they are in genuine need, I always give them something. Or try to help save their marriage." But Paul refuses to disclose what proportion of his income he gives away to such charitable causes. And he shrugs his shoulders when I warn him that he will now be inundated with requests.

Yet despite his high personal net worth, which makes him one of the most successful Indian businesses in Britain, all those requests for assistance and advice come from fellow Asians. They voted him Asian businessman of the year in 1987. And they remember him as one of India Gandhi's few real friends. He turned down her invitation to become India's high commissioner in London - "I feel more comfortable in my office or on the factory floor; that's the only place I really relax" - and so she honoured him with the equivalent of a peerage instead. But most Britons have never heard of him.

He has a publicly quoted subsidiary, Caparo Industries, which is 78 per cent owned by his private vehicle, Caparo Group. But even though Caparo Industries is capitalised at more than £50 million in its own right, few professional investment advisers in the City follow him. The balance of his private interests, excluding that 78 per cent stake, are also worth more than £50 million.

His interests range from a steel tubing plant in Ebbw Vale, Gwent and a joint venture steel mill with British Steel in Scunthorpe, to tea plantations in India and consumer electronics, in the form of Armstrong Equipment which he took over last November after a bid battle.

"He is pictured as a sort of shadowy Indian figure, quietly building up his business, a sort of industrial equivalent to the corner shop," says one City analyst. But few corner shopkeepers can claim to be worth £100 million.

Admitting that most people in the Square Mile do ignore him and his industrial efforts, the same analyst adds candidly: "I suppose,

By CAROL LEONARD
BUSINESS PROFILE

Swraj Paul

basically, people are reluctant to follow an Indian. Perhaps you had better call it City conservatism. Or a certain reserve?" Racism? "I suppose so."

It should also be borne in mind, of course, that since 78 per cent of Caparo Industries is in private hands, the market in its shares is extremely tight:

Those who have encountered Paul over in his unfailing politeness. He is the sort of man who puts people instantly at their ease. They acknowledge his success in an unfashionable and unglamorous sector - steel - one which was hitherto monopolised by a nationalised industry. Their only real reservations are about the

'For every success you must have a failure, it's part of life. And we have had our disasters'

inter-relationship between his publicly-quoted concern and his private vehicle. "You could argue that there might be a question of where his ultimate loyalties lie," says one.

The British establishment perhaps remembers Paul best for his tussle with the hi-fi group Fidelity. He took it over in 1984 for £14 million. But it was a deal he would live to regret. Four years later he cut his losses and closed it. He took Touche Ross to court, claiming that the company's audited accounts had painted a misleadingly optimistic picture. The case went to the House of Lords, reaching its conclusion in February this year. Paul lost. The ruling concluded that an auditor's responsibility was to the company and not its shareholders.

"In my view it is very sad that the question of whether or not they were negligent was never tried - only the question of their responsibility," says Paul.

"For every success you must have a failure, it's part of life. And we have had our disasters." But Paul has vowed never to attempt to diversify again. "From now on we will stick only to what we know."

But takeover deals apart, and whether the British establishment wants to look for it or not, there is another side to Swraj Paul. Unusually for such a successful businessman, his life has been governed by his Hindu beliefs. And it manifests itself in his attitude towards money more than anything else.

Brought to Britain in 1966 when his young daughter Ambika needed medical treatment for leukaemia, Paul decided to stay when she died two years later. "I felt that since she had died here, her spirit was still here, and I didn't want to leave."

After a traditional 18-month period of mourning and meditation, known as sanyas, he says with a wry smile.

Educated at a Christian school in India - "simply because it was the nicest school available" - and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, he was one of seven children and was raised by two of his older brothers.

He first learned English at the age of ten and still speaks with a heavy Indian accent. "My mother died in child birth, when I was seven, and my father died when I was 13. But my eldest brother was 13 years older than me and so he filled the gap left by my parents. I didn't really miss them. It was a very good childhood." But he says, "remember his re-

his back on a comfortable life-style and flourishing family business in India. It was then, in 1968, that he branched out on his own in London, with a one-roomed office in Chiswell Street in the City.

"I borrowed £5,000 and started buying and selling steel, from country to country. It was something I knew about from our business in India and I didn't need much capital to do it. But in those early days we went through very difficult times," he says.

"We had been used to servants and suddenly we had to do everything ourselves. I only bought my first car - an Austin - in 1976, because I kept putting all the money back into the business."

He now drives a BMW and jets that he still cannot afford a Rolls-Royce. And when one of his three old Harrovia sons once wanted a Ferrari he refused to

"I have immense faith in God and I believe in destiny," explains Paul, who spends six or seven minutes every morning saying his prayers. "Why was the daughter I loved so much taken away from me? Why did I decide to stay in London? God has been very kind to me. I never thought I would get where I am. A lot of people work harder than I do and don't do as well. It must be the work of a higher hand. Without that there is no point."

He has lived in the same apartment, opposite Broadcasting House in Portland Place, since he arrived in London. Except that he now owns the entire block, has renamed it Ambika House, and occupies two penthouse flats there as well. He needs the space to accommodate his four children when they visit. But the apartments are unostentatious. And unlike most men in his position, he shuns chauffeur-driven cars. "I usually walk to work," he says. He also goes for a daily hour-long walk in Regent's Park before work. "Sometimes on my own or sometimes with a friend who lives nearby. It's good exercise and it gives me time to think."

His philosophy about money is simple. "I have never considered that it belongs to me. I am its trustee and must use it to create more wealth. I believe you must have respect for money, and should not go about wasting it and showing off. But if a person comes to me and is deserving, then I will give."

A life-long vegetarian, Paul has never smoked or drunk alcohol.

He consumes vast quantities of top grade tea instead, supplied by his 13 "tea gardens". Darjeeling is his favourite and he drinks it with milk and low-calorie sweeteners. "We Indians are more British than the British, you know," he says with a wry smile.

Educated at a Christian school in India - "simply because it was the nicest school available" - and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, he was one of seven children and was raised by two of his older brothers.

He first learned English at the age of ten and still speaks with a heavy Indian accent. "My mother died in child birth, when I was seven, and my father died when I was 13. But my eldest brother was 13 years older than me and so he filled the gap left by my parents. I didn't really miss them. It was a very good childhood." But he says, "remember his re-



Unconventional match: Swraj Paul and his wife of 34 years, Aruna, at their London home. "I arranged the marriage myself," he says

clearly. "He was a fine man, very principled and a great disciplinarian. If ever I told a lie it was a great crime."

Yet despite his strict adherence to his faith, Paul did not submit himself to an arranged marriage. "I arranged it myself," he says. He married Aruna, the mother of his other sons Amar and Akash, his other daughter, Roedean-educated Anjali, and youngest son, Angad, 34 years ago.

"My relatives were uneasy at first," he admits. Given his upbringing it was, after all, an unconventional relationship. He met her when she gate-crashed a party at his family home. "She came with a person who was sort of engaged to her at the time." Even then, and despite his re-

ligious beliefs, he clearly enjoyed a challenge. "She has some very strong views and it would be dull if we never had any arguments, but

'People work far harder than I do and don't do as well. It must be the work of a higher hand.'

we still love each other very much."

But, like father, like son, he too

has been a strict disciplinarian

with his own children. They continue to call him "daddy" and their mother "mummy". And they do not drink alcohol or eat meat in front of him.

He commands such respect by uncommon means. "I can honestly say that I have never heard my father raise his voice," says 20-year-old Angad. "It would be easier if he did shout, then you could shout back. But you know you're in trouble if he stops smiling - he normally smiles all the time."

Angad, a student at MIT who speaks with a true Harrovian accent, also reveals that his father often intimidates his friends. "They usually meet him in the evenings, when he has been at work all day. He is a very quiet

man but with a very intense stare. And he always asks them questions like 'What are your goals?' But my friends don't have any goals yet. They are just thankful to be alive."

Paul blushes as his son speaks. A humble man, he at first denies that he has ever encountered racism. He does not like to talk about it. But he quite plainly has. "I just ignore it. They are just ignorant people." And he speaks about Britain as "home".

"The quality of life here is the best in the world. There is something sober and solid about it and the pace of life is just right. I'm a very proud Indian but I'm also proud to be British and I find no conflict in that at all."

Cleaning up in the water shortage

CAPITAL CITY

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES



Dyeing art: grass is given a green rinse

known as Drought Busters and viewed by the locals as a fairly toothless watchdog.

Since they started prowling for water wasters three months ago each of the 25 residents officially warned 138 and only seven householders have been cited for a second offence and will have \$350 added to their next bill, which usually averages about \$23.17 a month.

According to water department fig-

ures for the average householder, whose daily water usage is estimated at 110 gallons, would mean taking an eight minute instead of a ten minute shower, turning off the tap between applying toothbrush to teeth and rinsing, or buying a low-flush toilet (water use 1.6 gallons instead of 5 gallons) and the department offers \$100 cash as an incentive).

Hundreds of gallons could be saved by not using the dishwasher (30 gallons), washing machine (45 to 60 gallons), turning off the hose between soaping the car and clearing the suds (10 gallons a minute) or watering the lawn (350 gallons).

Through a slow southern drawl, an official of the Metropolitan Water District encapsulated the state's problem in fewer than 30 words: "Two-thirds of the water in California is in the north and two-thirds of the people who want to use it live in the south."

The Metropolitan authority, a sort of water wholesaler to six counties with 15 million consumers, says the position is becoming critical. Last year it delivered 815 million gallons of water.

"If we go into a fifth year of drought there will have to be sharp cutbacks and we'll start offering incentives for people to take less water. We haven't got enough in storage to last us a year," the official said.

Lawn-dyeing Mr Barrows added: "Storage is exactly the problem. There have always been these bare-brained ideas about towing icebergs from Alaska to bring water to the desert, but no one has addressed the real problem of how to store water when we get it."

But while Southern California prays for rain, Mr Barrows has tripled the price of his lush lawn services. In May he charged \$45 to dye the average size lawn a rich green. That rinse now costs \$135 and lasts just under two months.

According to water department fig-

"DO YOU know my friend Mr Betts? I wish I could remember as accurately as he forgets."

Ogden Nash may have thought he had problems with his memory when he wrote these lines half a century ago, but at least he never had to worry about cash machines and personal identification numbers (PINs).

With the proliferation of plastic cards, many of us now have more than one PIN to commit to memory and we take seriously the threat that PINs must never be disclosed to another person or written down. That is where the trouble starts.

Remembering one four-digit sequence is not difficult, and simpler than remembering a telephone number. But, once you have two or three random PINs, there is plenty of scope for confusion. Or worse - watching your precious piece of plastic slide inexorably into the teller machine.

Cash machines, dispensing money night and day, are a boon as long as everything is operating in a perfect world. Unfortunately, reality rules and machines break down, admittedly less often than they used to, or run out of money and we forget our PINs.

To date, I have never withdrawn cash on my credit card, so I have never used the Visa PIN. But as this would be a useful fallback on holiday, I wanted to check whether I had remembered the number correctly. I thought I could try twice without risk. Not surprisingly, the number I had not

Barclaycard's Northampton office confirmed what the branch had told me: the magnetic strip has been damaged - perhaps wiped by a magnet - or the PIN is wrongly entered three times.

When recalling your PIN card code becomes a numbers game

of the machine the following morning, cut up and returned to Northampton from where a new card would be issued.

With luck on my side, I could receive a new card two days later. I did not have that much time to wait. I went back to the branch, explained the urgency and begged them not to cut up my card. If the next morning I could prove I was the one I claimed to be, they said, they would return the card in one piece.

Like an alcoholic outside a pub before opening time, I was on the doorstep at 9.25 am. They were true to their word and, although I still have no idea of the PIN, I can pay for my holiday on credit with the back up of Barclaycard's international rescue if the card is lost, and purchase cover insurance if anything I buy is damaged or stolen.

There are three circumstances in which cash machines will gobble a card: the card has been reported stolen, the magnetic strip has been damaged - perhaps wiped by a magnet - or the PIN is wrongly entered three times.

Some cards give customers the opportunity to change the PIN to any number they find easy to remember on the very first occasion the card is used in a machine. If all of them did this, you could have the same PIN for all your cards.

Barclays does not, although they may in future if there is enough customer demand.

There are, in fact, ways of writing down a PIN in a disguised form to jog poor memories. It is not safe, however, to write the number on the back of the credit card, as Save & Prosper has found some people doing.

Neither should you disclose the number to any other person, even a close friend who offers to get you some cash in the lunch hour. If you do, you become liable for all losses on the card if anything goes wrong.

MARGARET DIBBEN

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